Shoujo Scars
The reason why she can't smile
Volume 3
Translator: Oceansportrait
Proofreading: CreateMagic
Cleaner: Tery
Typesetter: Tero
Qc: Bel52
Chapter 1

花とゆめCOMICS

THE REASON WHY SHE CAN'T SMILE

(WARAENAI RIYUU)

Mochizuki Karin

3

笑えない理由〔3〕

望月花梨

白泉社

花とゆめ COMICS

●望月花梨の本

——花とゆめコミックス——

コナコナチョウチョウ

欲望バス

Wの庭園

純粋培養閲覧図

裸足めぐり

チョコレート ダイアリイ

笑えない理由 ①〜③

ISBN4-592-17233-7

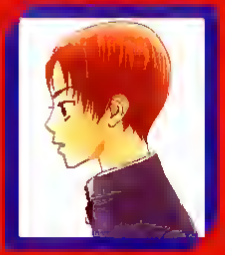
C9979 ¥390E

定価 本体390円+税

雑誌43759－90

作品かいせつ

瑛士とかな子の仲を取持ち失恋確実になりながらも瑛士への想いを断ち切れず、受験勉強に身が入らない麗子。そんなある日、瑛士とかな子がまだ付き合っていない事を知った麗子は、V・Dに自分の気持ちを伝えようと決心するのだが…!? 果して、麗子の想いは届くのか…？



花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

白泉社

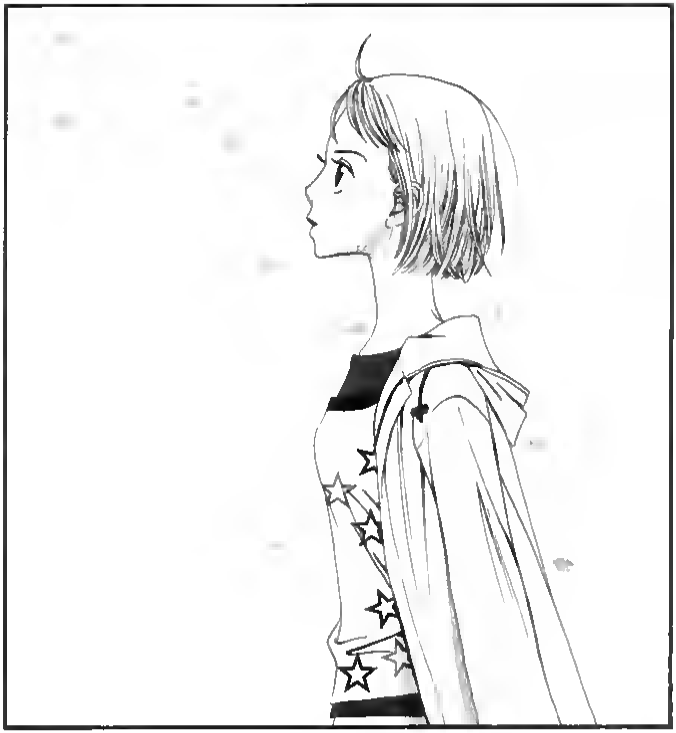
HANA TO YUME COMICS

THE REASON WHY SHE CAN'T SMILE

(WARAENAI RIYUU)

VOLUME 3

Mochizuki Karin



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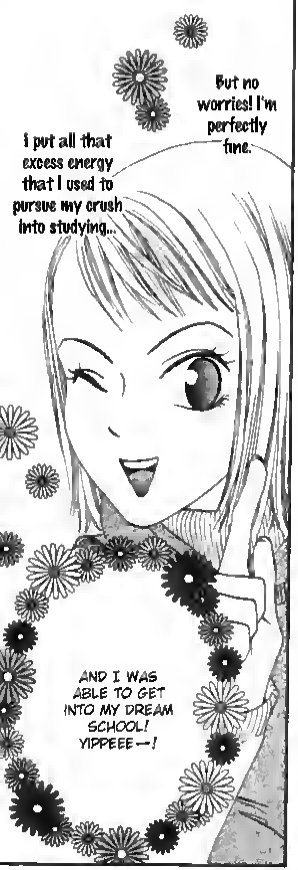
WOULD YOU LIKE A COUGH DROP?... 175

THE REASON WHY SHE CAN'T SMILE

(WARAENAI RIYUU)

My name is Katsuragawa Reiko, and I'm a grade 9er who's getting ready to do her high school entrance exams.


But no worries! I'm perfectly fine.
I put all that excess energy that I used to pursue my crush into studying...
AND I WAS ABLE TO GET INTO MY DREAM SCHOOL! YIPPEEE—!

To be honest with you, I got shot down by the guy I had a crush on not too long ago...

I'm Katsuragawa Reiko, and I've just started term 3 of grade 9
WHAT IS THIS?!
ARE THESE REALLY THE GRADES YOU GOT FOR YOUR PRACTICE EXAMS THAT YOU TOOK RIGHT AFTER WINTER BREAK?!
—like real life would work like that.
REIKO!
HOW COULD YOUR GRADES DROP 50 SPOTS AT A CRUCIAL TIME LIKE THIS!
This is my reality.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING ALL WINTER BREAK?!
DO YOU REALIZE THAT THE REAL EXAMS ARE NOT TOO FAR OFF FROM NOW?!
DO YOU REALLY REALIZE THAT?!
I know, I know.
YOU SAY THAT BUT IT'S STILL A MONTH AWAY—
Just leave me alone.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!
EVEN BEFORE THE BREAK YOU WERE BARELY SCRAPING BY TO GET INTO THAT SCHOOL AS IT WAS—
IF YOU KEEP GOING ON LIKE THIS, YOU'LL END UP NOT BEING ABLE TO GET IN, JUST LIKE BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
Scans

I WON'T SCREW UP THIS TIME AROUND!
—it's true that I want to focus fully on my upcoming exams. .
Rewind Winter Break
.. but—
THANKS FOR THE OTHER DAY.

Visiting the Shrine for New Year's
HUH ?
YOU MEAN THE DAY OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY?
THANKS FOR WHAT?
REMEMBER HOW YOU TOLD ME THAT KANAKO WAS DOING CLEANING DUTIES ALL BY HERSELF AT SCHOOL?
DID YOU PATCH THINGS UP WITH HER?
Sniffle
...I brought this upon myself.

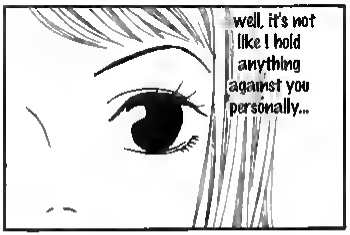
That was right around the time that I stopped concentrating on my studies.
I was the one who pushed him in her direction.
Eiji—Hurry up!
This is the same as being rejected by him outright.
WHAT ARE WE ANYWAY?
HEY...
OR IS IT THAT WE'RE SENPAI AND KOUHAI OF THE SAME SCHOOL?
...ARE WE "THE FRIEND'S BIG SISTER" AND "THE YOUNGER BROTHER'S FRIEND"?
...
WE'RE FRIENDS AREN'T WE?
OR

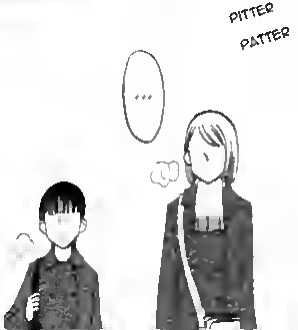
Shoujo Scans
...that kind of reply
is the most painful one to hear...
Let's draw our fortunes! C'mon!!

...
MAYBE SHE JUST WASN'T FEELING STUDIOUS THIS TIME AROUND
I'M SURE SHE'LL DO FINE ON THE NEXT PRACTICE EXAM
SNAP
DON'T BACK ME UP!
HUH...?
LOOK AT THIS! YOUR SISTER'S GRADES!
KEIICHI!
because I still haven't given up on him yet...
...
YOU SHOULDN'T GET SO ANGRY WITHOUT HEARING HER OUT FIRST...
Also, she wasn't skipping!
SO WHY HAVE HER GRADES FALLEN SO MUCH?!
SHE ATTENDED CRAM SCHOOL DURING WINTER BREAK,
UGH, WHEN IS SHE GONNA JUST DROP IT?

—the complex that I hold against my perfect brother runs pretty deep
ON TOP OF THAT, MY BROTHER BREEZED RIGHT THROUGH HIS EXAMS
—I REALLY WANT TO GRADUATE FROM THESE CHILDISH NOTIONS OF MINE TOO
—but if I can get accepted into that school this time around,
I have a feeling
that I'll be able to move on from those feelings...
—Back when I was in grade 6, I ended up not getting accepted into the junior high division of the school I'm applying to now...
AM I REALLY READY FOR THE EXAMS?!
BUT!
BACKGROUND
Sometimes these doubts assault me.
I really want to give it my all, but...
The Next Morning
HEY, MORNING, AYAKO
REIKO-CHAN! 'MORNING'
!
HEYY! YOU HAVE THE SAME 'DO!
WHAT'S UP?
CUTE, RIGHT?

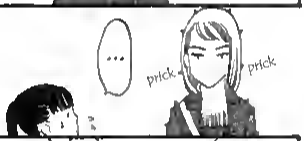
SHE SAID YOU LOOK CUTE!
SEE? WHAT'D I TELL YOU, KANAKO?
YAY!
YOU LOOK LIKE TWINS
WELL, YEAH SURE... BUT...
SHE STILL HAS THIS BAD HABIT OF TRYING TO HIDE HER FACE WITH HER HAIR,
SO WE ARE TRYING OUT ALL SORTS OF IDEAS!
It's having no hair on the sides of your face, sis! —A big deal
OH,
I HAVE TO STOP BY THE STAFF ROOM BEFORE HOMEROOM,
SO I'M GOING TO GO AHEAD OKAY?
SURE
So this is the girl Akiba's liked for the longest time...
...
OH—


well, it's not like I hold anything against you personally...


PITTER
PATTER
...

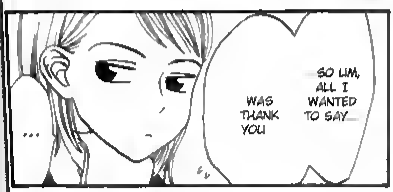
HUH?
LIM...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE DAY OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE SECOND TERM
THE REASON WHY EIJI-KUN KNEW I WAS DOING THE BEAUTIFICATION CLUB COMMITTEE JOB THAT DAY
WAS BECAUSE YOU TOLD HIM RIGHT?

LIM...
REIKO-SAN
but being this close to you is starting to draw out the worst in me..!
prick prick
WHAT IS IT?


...
prick
prick

huh?
Well, sure, now that they know their feelings for each other.
Well then—
it'll put her in the mood to feel grateful.

BUT I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE THAT IS HOW HE KNEW...
OH, NO!
Since we're on the same committee, and I heard that he was over at your house.
DID AKIBA TELL YOU THAT?
...


...
WAS THANK YOU
SO LIM, ALL I WANTED TO SAY...

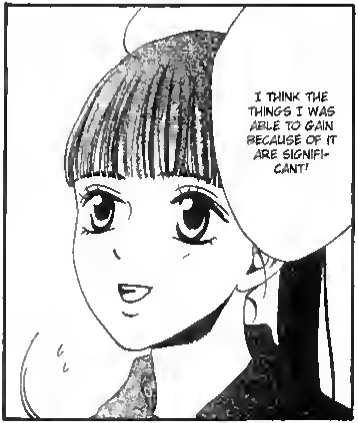
WHAT?!
DO YOU LIKE AKIBA EIJI?
SO DISH THE DIRT, KANAKO-CHAN...
AH...
YES, UM...
Blush
YOU REALLY DO HAVE A HEART OF GOLD THOUGH.
YOU KNOW... FOR FORGIVING HIM FOR ALL THE TERRIBLE STUFF HE DID TO YOU...
I can't believe you still like him regardless
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
YES I... LIKE HIM.
Give me a break. What is this preschool?

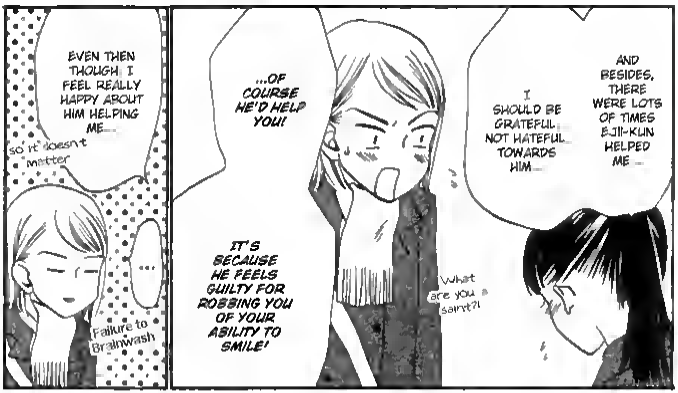
...DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T REALIZED IT?
I HEARD ABOUT IT ALL FROM AYAKO...
HE CALLED YOU UGLY
AND THAT LED TO YOU NOT BEING ABLE TO SMILE FOR TWO YEARS, RIGHT?
EVEN NOW YOU STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GO COMPLETELY BACK TO NORMAL...
yousuke...
IF I WERE YOU, I'D HATE HIM FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART~
Psychological Attack!
H—
HATE HIM—?
Brain washing
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S A NO BRAINER!
TWO YEARS DURING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS A BIG DEAL!
IF YOU HAD BEEN ABLE TO LAUGH DURING THOSE TWO YEARS, YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO LEAD A MUCH FUNNER SCHOOL LIFE!
AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT TO THINK HE'D ROB YOU OF A NECESSITY LIKE A SMILE!
THAT'S A HUGE HOLE TO FILL UP!

REVENGE!
IT WOULDN'T BE AT ALL SURPRISING IF YOU WANTED TO SEEK YOUR REVENGE ON HIM!
REVENGE?
IT WOULDN'T BE BLOWING IT ALL OUT OF PROPORTION—
IT WOULD BE A NO BRAINER, YOU KNOW?
YOU SHOULD REALLY THINK THINGS THROUGH MORE, KANAKO-CHAN!
THINK ABOUT ALL THE STUFF HE'S DONE TO YOU —
shudder
AND YOU SHOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING YOUR CURRENT RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM —
...
(In other words she wants them to break up.)
BUT I—

I THINK THERE WERE LOTS OF THINGS I WOULDN'T HAVE NOTICED IF I'D SPEND THOSE YEARS NORMALLY
HUH?

DON'T THINK THAT THOSE TWO YEARS I COULDN'T SMILE WERE A WASTE


I THINK THE THINGS I WAS ABLE TO GAIN BECAUSE OF IT ARE SIGNIFI-CANT!


EVEN THEN THOUGH, I FEEL REALLY HAPPY ABOUT HIM HELPING ME...
so it doesn't matter
...
Failure to BrainWash
...OF COURSE HE'D HELP YOU!!
IT'S BECAUSE HE FEELS GUILTY FOR ROBBING YOU OF YOUR ABILITY TO SMILE!
What are you saint?!
I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL NOT HATEFUL TOWARDS HIM...
AND BESIDES, THERE WERE LOTS OF TIMES EJII-KUN HELPED ME...

JUST FORGET IT
UM...
AH, REIKO-SAN!
THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE...
MY SISTER STILL SEEMS TO HAVE A BAD IMPRESSION OF BIJI-KUN...
SO WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO KEEP ME LIKING HIM A SECRET?
...THAT'S A NO BRAINER
SHE'S GOT EXAMS COMING UP TOO...
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO TELL HER SOMETHING THAT MIGHT CAUSE HER TO WORRY UNNECESSARILY
...
I WON'T SAY A WORD TO HER ABOUT IT
She gets too caught up when it comes to her sister

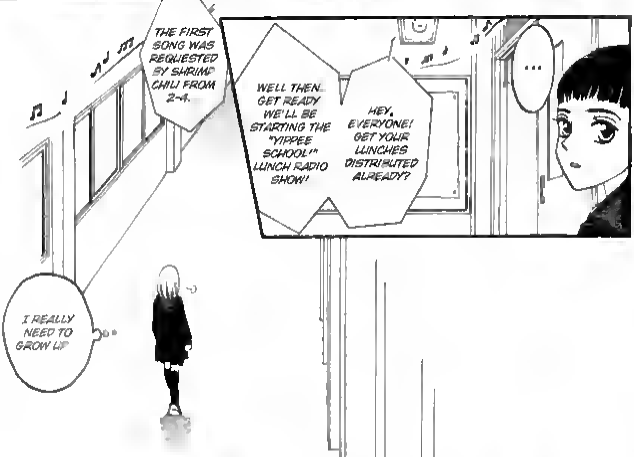
YOU SHOULD WORK OUT THE TIMING AND TELL HER ON YOUR OWN
THANK YOU, REIKO-SAN
—tsk!
"Ouch"
SHE LOOKED SO CUTE WHEN SHE SMILED
"Ouch"
"Ouch"
Lunch
They're currently handing out lunch
Forget that. How'd you do on your practice exam?
They had a problem like this in last year's exam, don't they?
They're trying out for the same school
I managed to pass somehow. What about you, Matsushima-kun?
...TO BE HONEST THOUGH, I WISH I COULD JUST SPILL EVERYTHING TO AYAKO AND GET HER ADVICE...
like how I'm wrecking my head over love woes.

...HOW COULD SHE
LAUGH LIKE THAT WHEN I AM WRACKING MY HEAD THIS MUCH?!
WHAT'S UP, REIKO-CHAN?
You're pouting
NOTHING JUST LEAVE ME ALONE
Ha!
IT'D BE GREAT TO BE ABLE TO JUST TELL HER EVERY-THING...
!!!
Oh, so you don't like horror stories?
The topic's switched.
BUT IF I DO THAT, SHE'S GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON BETWEEN HER SIS AND AKIRA.
can't
Ahaha, that is SO weird!!
Hey, don't laugh!
...
...
ANY WORRIES YOU WANNA GET ADVICE ABOUT?
...
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
WELL, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE NOTHING TO ME!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING FOR?
Your sis does that too! Talk about a weird duo!
clatter
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
AND WHY YOU WEAR YOUR SKIRT DOWN TO BELOW YOUR KNEES!
YOU'RE ALWAYS FOLDING YOUR SOCKS UP EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO SCHOOL RULE THAT REQUIRES IT.
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHY

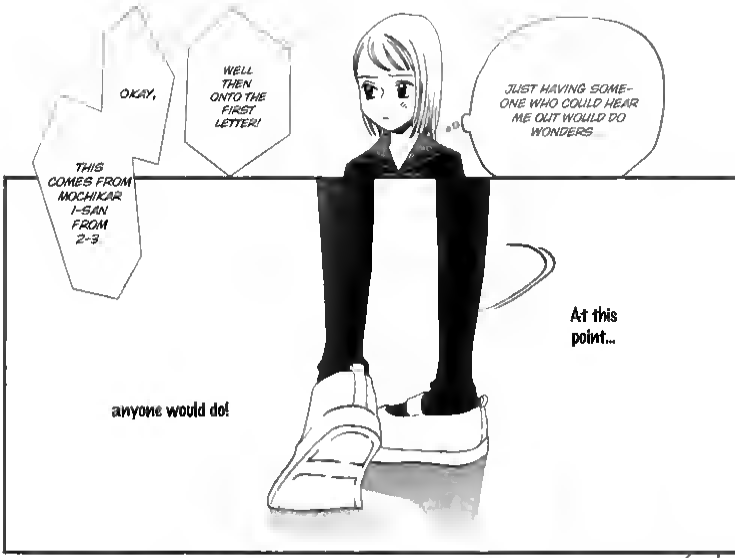
HEY, WE'RE MISSING ONE PUDDING!
The person on duty duties go to the cafeteria and get it won't ya?
OH...
I'LL GO
That's me

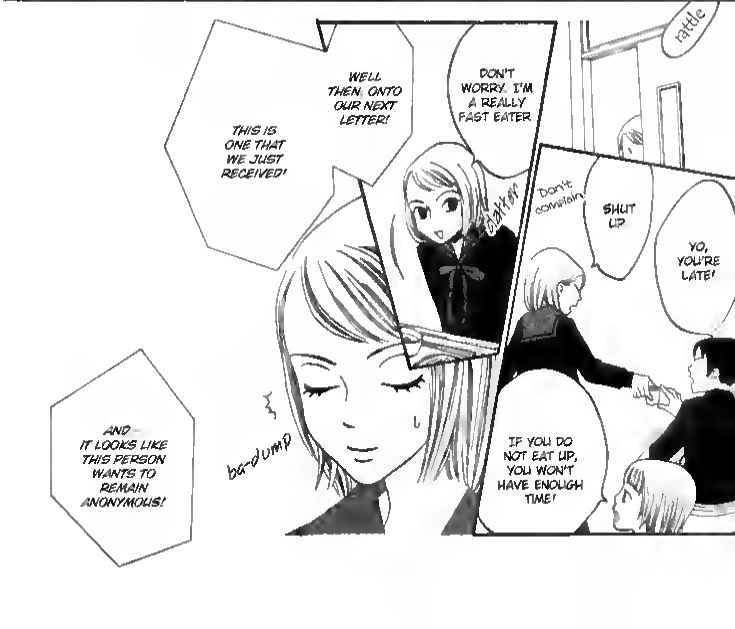
...
I took out my frustration on you
I'M...
SORRY

...
DUMBSTRUCK

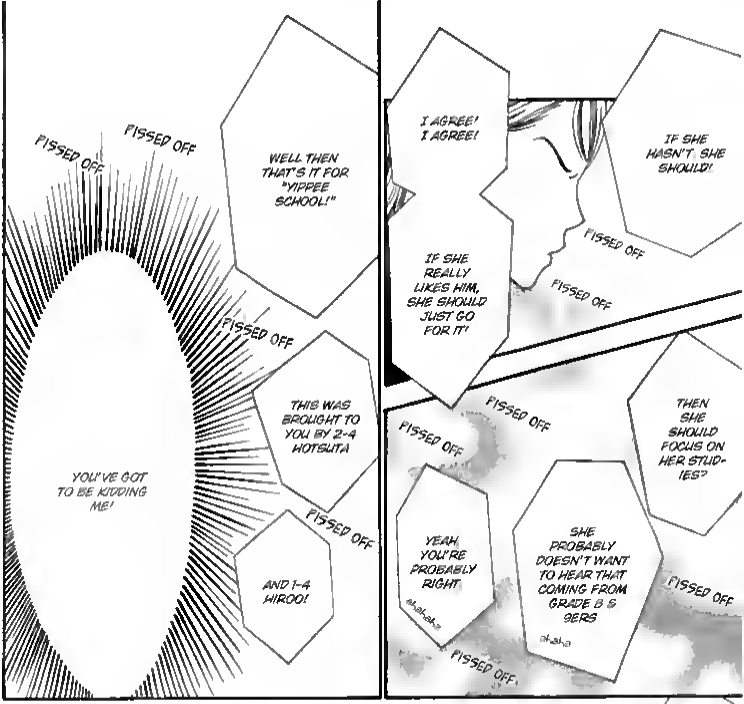

THE FIRST SONG WAS REQUESTED BY SHRIMP CHILI FROM 2-4.
I REALLY NEED TO GROW UP
WE'LL THEN... GET READY WE'LL BE STARTING THE "YIPPEE SCHOOL!" LUNCH RADIO SHOW!
HEY, EVERYONE! GET YOUR LUNCHES DISTRIBUTED ALREADY?
...

WE'LL BE GIVING OUR ADVICE ON YOUR WORRIES AND PROBLEMS THAT YOU DROPPED OFF IN OUR REQUEST BOX OUTSIDE THE RECORDING ROOM
It sucks that I can't talk about it with...Haco
I WISH SOMEONE COULD JUST HEAR ME OUT...
NOW'S THE TIME FOR THE WEEKLY CORNER WE HAVE ON WEDNESDAYS TO GIVE ADVICE ON YOUR WORRIES!
WELL THEN!


OKAY,
THIS COMES FROM MOCHIKAR I-SAN FROM 2-3
WELL THEN ONTO THE FIRST LETTER!
JUST HAVING SOME-ONE WHO COULD HEAR ME OUT WOULD DO WONDERS...
At this point...
anyone would do!


THIS IS ONE THAT WE JUST RECEIVED!
WELL THEN, ONTO OUR NEXT LETTER!
DON'T WORRY. I'M A REALLY FAST EATER
rattle
Don't complain
SHUT UP
YO, YOU'RE LATE!
IF YOU DO NOT EAT UP, YOU WON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME!
ba-dump
AND... IT LOOKS LIKE THIS PERSON WANTS TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS!

Ishoujo
Scans
THE PERSON I HAVE A CRUSH ON LIKES SOMEONE ELSE, BUT I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET OVER HIM
WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?
WHENEVER I'M AROUND HIM, I FIND MYSELF HOLDING MY FEELINGS BACK. INSTEAD, I FOUND MYSELF HELPING HIM IN HIS LOVE TROUBLES!
AT THIS RATE, I CAN'T FOCUS ON MY UPCOMING EXAMS
OH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MAYBE IT IS JUST ME BUT I WONDER IF THIS PERSON REALLY LIKES HIM?
YOU'RE RIGHT
Boo-Jump
Boo-Jump
WELL, NOW THIS IS THE KIND OF LOVE WOE THAT'S VERY BEFITTING FOR THIS SEASON!
AT ANY RATE, I WONDER IF SHE'S EVEN TRIED TO CONFESS HER FEELINGS FOR HIM?
WELL... SURE...
IN HIS LOVE TROUBLES EVEN THOUGH SHE SAYS SHE LIKES HIM?
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE THAT SHE'S HELPING HIM

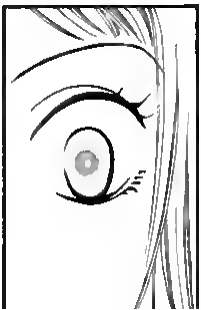

PISSED OFF
PISSED OFF
WELL THEN THAT'S IT FOR "YIPPEE SCHOOL!"
PISSED OFF
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
THIS WAS BROUGHT TO YOU BY 2-4 HOTSUTA
PISSED OFF
AND 1-4 HIROO!
I AGREE! I AGREE!
IF SHE HASN'T, SHE SHOULD!
PISSED OFF
IF SHE REALLY LIKES HIM, SHE SHOULD JUST GO FOR IT!
PISSED OFF
PISSED OFF
THEN SHE SHOULD FOCUS ON HER STUDIES!
PISSED OFF
YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
ahaha
SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO HEAR THAT COMING FROM GRADE 8 S SERS
ahaha
PISSED OFF
PISSED OFF
WELL THEN, SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!
See ya!

It's because I AM serious that I'm..

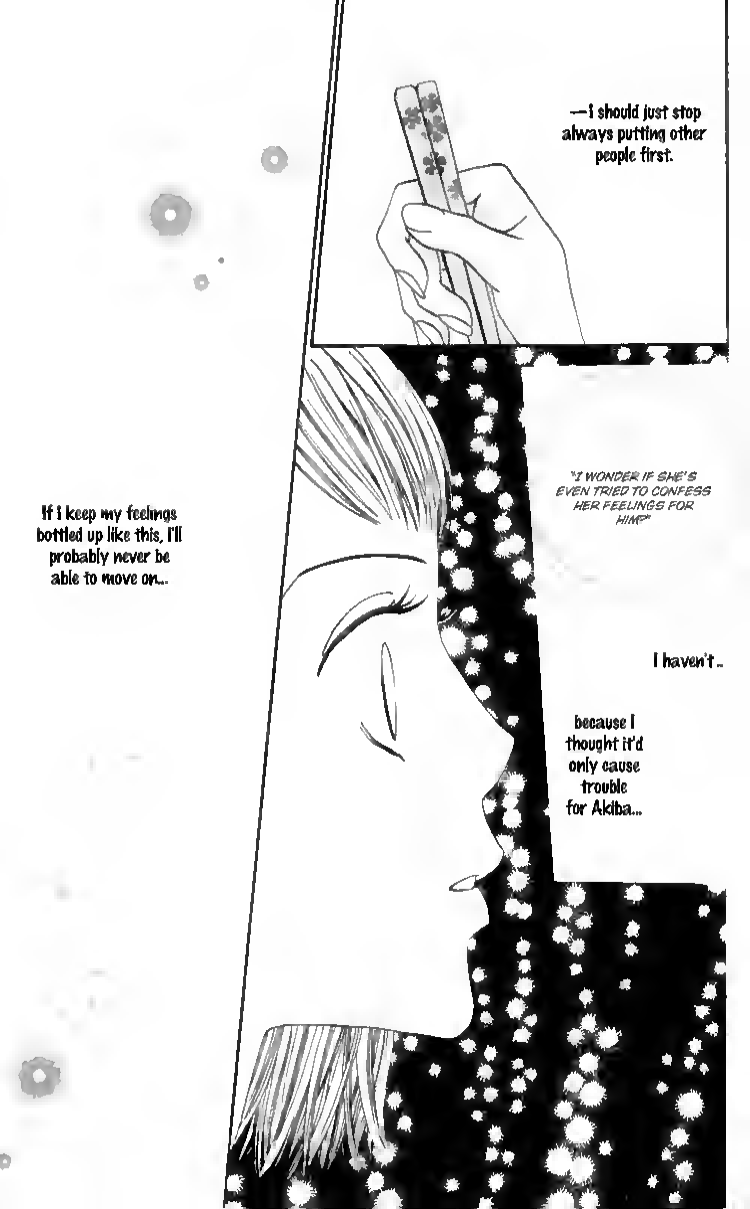
What are they talking about?

I'm not serious about him?

...I don't really like him?

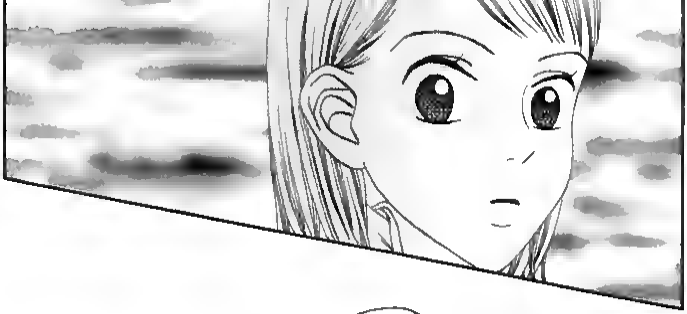


If I wasn't serious about him I wouldn't be wracking my head over this as much as I am.

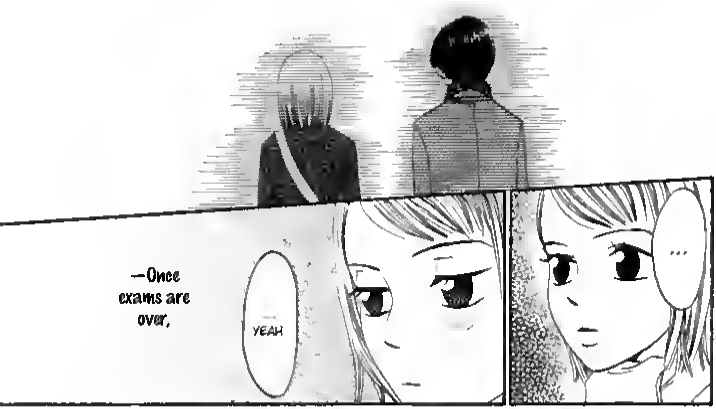

—I should just stop always putting other people first.
"I WONDER IF SHE'S EVEN TRIED TO CONFESS HER FEELINGS FOR HIM?"
If I keep my feelings bottled up like this, I'll probably never be able to move on...
I haven't..
because I thought it'd only cause trouble for Akiba...

SO WHAT,
ARE YOU HEADING HOME NOW?
PRETTY LATE, HUH?
IT TAKES YOU THIS LONG TO COME HOME EVEN THOUGH YOU HEADED STRAIGHT HOME?
WHAT WERE YOU BUYING?
SOME PENCIL LEAD AND LOOSE-LEAF PAPER
MUST BE TOUGH GOING TO A SCHOOL SO FAR AWAY
OH
SO YOU WERE STUDYING AT THE LIBRARY?
shuffle
What's her problem?
The Convenience Store
SIS

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS ME COME SPRING, RIGHT?



YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS ARE COMING UP SOON. GOOD LUCK



Will I be able to be nicer to Keiichi?

I wonder if I'll be able to be more honest with my feelings?

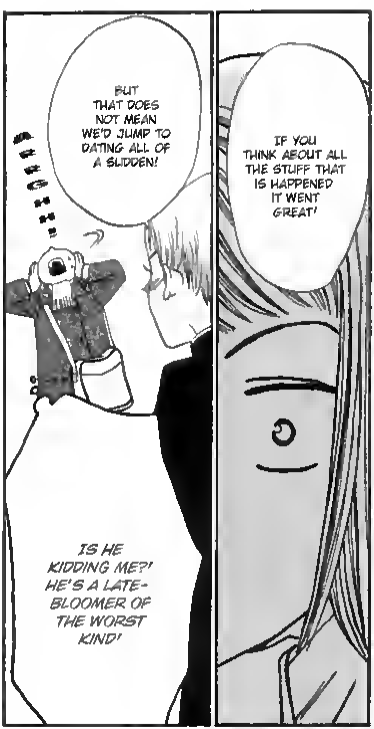
OH,
HEY NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
...
WELL, ALL THE MORE REASON FOR ME TO STUDY.
YOU AND AKIBA HAVEK NOWN EACH OTHER FOR A PRETTY LONG TIME, RIGHT?
YEAH...
WELL, SURE...
...THEN DO YOU KNOW
Tough work

but this time, I should be the one to...

SO PRETTY LONG, HUH?
YEAH
BUT WHY DO YOU ASK?
HEY!
AND THEN HE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL FOR GRADE 5 AND 6 BEFORE COMING BACK HERE, RIGHT?
HUH?!
Y-
YEAH
AND HE STILL LIKED HER?
YEAH. LOOKS LIKE IT—
THINGS DON'T NORMALLY LAST LONG BETWEEN MIDDLE SCHOOL COUPLES SO I THOUGHT EVEN IF I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, IT WOULDN'T LAST
From what I saw with my friends and all
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS THAT SET ON HER!
ER-
SO— WHAT ABOUT THAT?
NOTHING!
Just forget I asked
AH
Morning
Hmm... then I guess I can not get my hopes up?

AKIRA!
MORNING!
HEY
ONCE I GRADUATE
I WON'T BE ABLE TO BUMP INTO HIM LIKE THIS ON MY WAY TO SCHOOL.
WHAT?
...IT'S NOTHING!
ARE YOU BY YOURSELF?
YEAH.
YOU DON'T WALK TO SCHOOL TOGETHER WITH AYAKO'S SISTER
EVEN THOUGH YOU TWO ARE GOING OUT?
HUH?

HUH?!
BUT YOU SAID THAT THINGS WENT WELL BETWEEN YOU AND HER
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR!
YOU KNOW! THE DAY OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY?!
SURE IT DID!
WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO GO BACK TO THE FRIENDS WE WERE BEF
THAT'S RIGHT
F-
FRIENDS?!
THAT WAS THE DAY
THAT I FOUND OUT THAT SHE DIDN'T HATE ME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HUH?"...?
WHO'S DATING...?
WHAT...?!


AHHHH!!
BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN WE'D JUMP TO DATING ALL OF A SUDDEN!
IS HE KIDDING ME?! HE'S A LATE-BLOOMER OF THE WORST KIND!
IF YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THE STUFF THAT IS HAPPENED IT WENT GREAT!

What was all that time I spent wracking my head then?
WELL THEN, I SHOULD'VE JUST ASKED AYAKO'S SIS STRAIGHT OUT!
I totally thought they were dating!
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?
I totally thought...

<END OF CHAPTER>

Shoujo Scars

The reason why she can't smile

Volume 3

Translator: Oceansportrait
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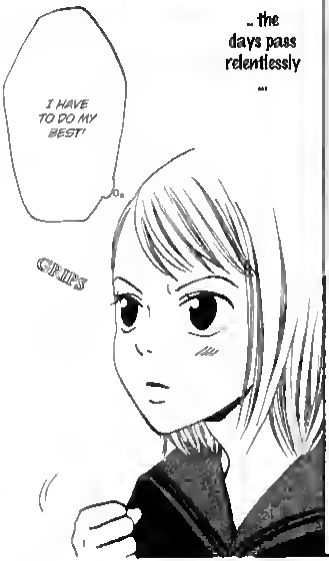
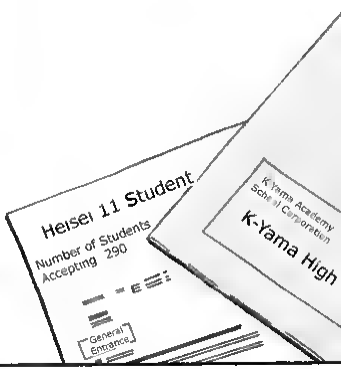
Typesetting: Hero
Quality: Bel52

Chapter 13

笑えない理由

...I decided to confess my feelings to Akiba on Valentine's Day, which also just happend to be the day right before my entrance exams.





GAMES

NORMALLY, I HARDLY EVER PLAY GAMES LATELY, HOWEVER, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME, BUT I'VE STARTED PLAYING FINAL FANTASY 8

Look at the way they move!
Wow! the sets so pretty!
This is her first time playing Final Fantasy.
She's using a machine for neck cramps.

IT'S BEEN ALMOST THREE YEARS SINCE I'VE PLAYED A RPG*, SO I'VE BEEN REALLY SURPRISED TO SEE HOW FAR GAMES HAVE COME

BUT SINCE I'M TAKING IT REALLY SLOW, I'VE ONLY PLAYED ABOUT HALF THE GAME I'M THINKING OF PLAYING FF7 AFTER I'M DONE WITH FF8.

*RPG = ROLE-PLAYING GAME

I'm still not sure if I chose the best day to do it though, seeing how it's the day before the exam. .

I'M SURE I WILL BE EVEN MORE NERVOUS COME THE 14TH,

AND IF I GET SHOT DOWN WHAT WILL THAT DO TO ME EMO TIONALLY ...?

That definitely won't be easy to swallow.

Hmmm

ba-dump

ba-dump

...I know this is a bit hard to believe, but ever since I decided I would confess my feelings to him, my studying's been going along pretty smoothly!

Yeah

Maybe it's because I've got it all sorted out in my head?

...NO! It'll be okay!

I'M GONNA TRY MY BEST FOR MY EXAMS!

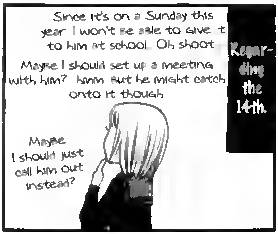
YEAH!

No matter the outcome, I'm sure I'll be able to face the exams head on because it'll be like a weight's been lifted off my shoulders!

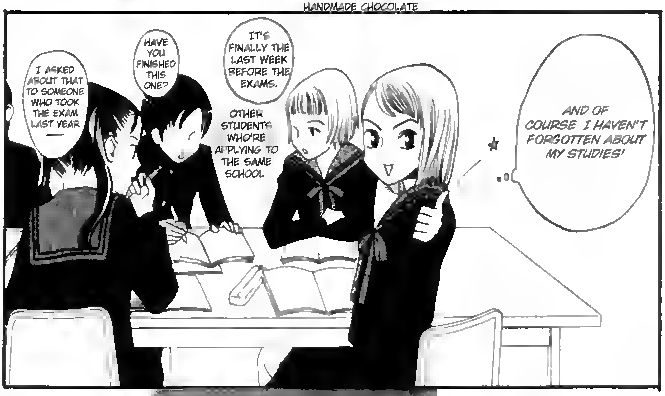
It's proof in and of itself that my studies have been going better ever since I decided to confess to him!

—and that's how.

while juggling 2 objectives, the days will lead up to the big day.

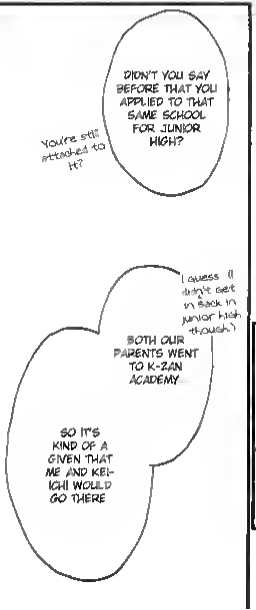

Since it's on a Sunday this year I won't be able to give it to him at school. Oh shoot
Regarding the 14th.
Maybe I should set up a meeting with him? Hmm but he might catch onto it though
Maybe I should just call him out instead?

SHE REFRAINED FROM MAKING HANDMADE CHOCOLATE


I ASKED ABOUT THAT TO SOMEONE WHO TOOK THE EXAM LAST YEAR
HAVE YOU FINISHED THIS ONE?
IT'S FINALLY THE LAST WEEK BEFORE THE EXAMS.
OTHER STUDENTS WHO'RE APPLYING TO THE SAME SCHOOL
AND OF COURSE I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT MY STUDIES!

I just hope it goes this well on the day of!
See you tomorrow
See ya
Bye
Everything's going pretty smoothly so far..
History should be fine..! think

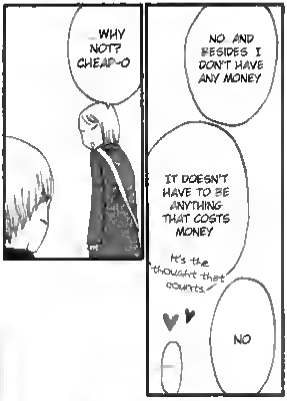
YEAH, CAUSE I'VE RARELY SHOWED UP TO PRACTICE
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE ON A SPORTS TEAM
AKIBA! ARE YOU HEADING HOME RIGHT NOW?
What a cold silence!
IT'S NOTHING.
Oh, but you cut it short...?
IS EVERY-THING OKAY?
YEAH...
I cut my practice short
OH,
MY HEAD HURTS. MAYBE I CAUGHT A COLD?
thud-thump
thud-thump
SHE'S A BIT NERV-OUS
BESIDES THAT—YOUR EXAMS COMING UP SOON, RIGHT?


DIDN'T YOU SAY BEFORE THAT YOU APPLIED TO THAT SAME SCHOOL FOR JUNIOR HIGH?
You're still attached to it?
I guess I might get in back in junior high though.
BOTH OUR PARENTS WENT TO K-ZAN ACADEMY
SO IT'S KIND OF A GIVEN THAT ME AND KEI-ICHI WOULD GO THERE

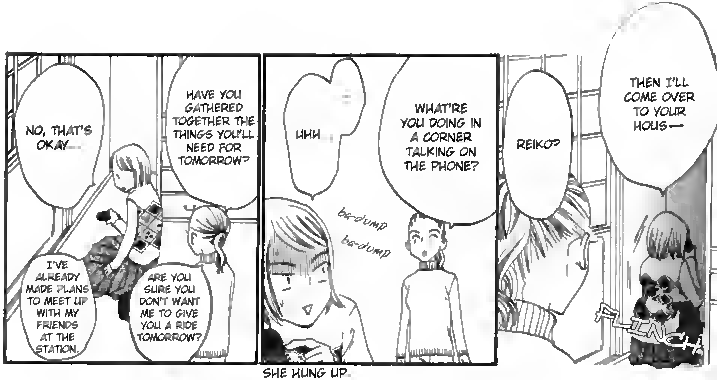
HUH?!
THAT IS ONLY FIVE DAYS FROM NOW!
YEP- IT IS ON THE 15TH
MY FIRST CHOICE IS K-ZAN HIGH
WHAT SCHOOL ARE YOU TRYING OUT FOR?
I DON'T REALLY LIKE IT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT EXAMS BECAUSE IT MAKES ME REALIZE OUR AGE DIF-FERENCE
<- SMALL TALK
OH SO THE SAME SCHOOL AS KEIICHI, HUH?
CAUSE I MIGHT BE COMING DOWN WITH A COLD
YOU BETTER STAY AWAY FROM ME!
SWISH
?

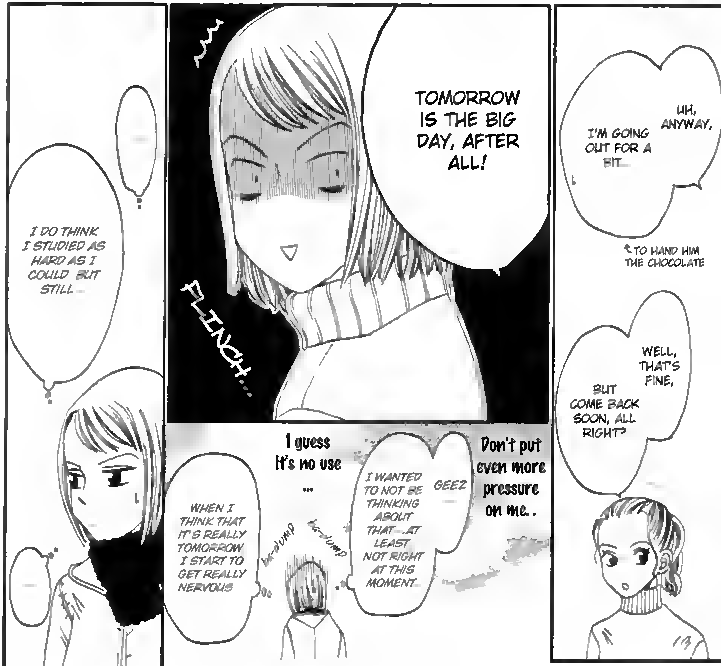
OH!
OH
BUT NOW I'M APPLYING TO THAT SCHOOL BECAUSE I WANT TO!
BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, I APPLIED BECAUSE MY PARENTS WANTED ME TO;
BUT SINCE I DIDN'T GET IN, I GOT A CHANCE TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AND COMPARE IT TO OTHER SCHOOLS.
AND I REALLY DID TAKE A LIKING TO IT—
AND IT MADE ME START TO THINK THAT I REALLY DO WANT TO GET IN—
...
THAT'S WHY I'M A LOT MORE NERVOUS NOW THAN I WAS BACK THEN WHEN I APPLIED FOR IT THE FIRST TIME
I'm barely passing the minimum acceptance level as it is
I DO PLAN ON PUTTING IN MY BEST EFFORT—

HUH?
IT'LL GIVE ME AN ADDED INCENTIVE TO STUDY HARD!
IF I GET IN, GIVE ME SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE ME BEING ACCEPTED!
AH! NOW HERE'S AN IDEA!


WHY NOT? CHEAP-O
NO AND BESIDES I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ANYTHING THAT COSTS MONEY
It's the thought that counts~
NO

—and so,
HUH?
YOU CAN'T? WHY?
YOU'RE SICK?!
NO WAY
YEP RIGHT NOW
COULD YOU MEET UP WITH ME?
the long awaited 14th came...
Ishoujo Scans


NO, THAT'S OKAY...
I'VE ALREADY MADE PLANS TO MEET UP WITH MY FRIENDS AT THE STATION.
HAVE YOU GATHERED TOGETHER THE THINGS YOU'LL NEED FOR TOMORROW?
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GIVE YOU A RIDE TOMORROW?
UHH
WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN A CORNER TALKING ON THE PHONE?
bu-dump
bu-dump
REIKO?
THEN I'LL COME OVER TO YOUR HOUS—
CLICK
SHE HUNG UP.


I DO THINK I STUDIED AS HARD AS I COULD, BUT STILL...
TOMORROW IS THE BIG DAY, AFTER ALL!
FLINCH...
UH, ANYWAY, I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT...
TO HAND HIM THE CHOCOLATE
WELL, THAT'S FINE, BUT COME BACK SOON, ALL RIGHT?
WHEN I THINK THAT IT'S REALLY TOMORROW, I START TO GET REALLY NERVOUS
I guess it's no use ...
bu-dump
bu-dump
I WANTED TO NOT BE THINKING ABOUT THAT... AT LEAST NOT RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT.
GEEZ
Don't put even more pressure on me..

SHOULD I REALLY BE DOING THIS RIGHT NOW ....?
SHE'S STARTING TO DOUBT HER ACTIONS.
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT AKIRA'S SICK...
It's not like I HAVE TO give it to him today!
What am I starting to doubt myself for now?
BLINK
I'm going to get this out of the way so I can fully concentrate on the entrance exams tomorrow!
It won't take long to give him chocolate!
Do not forget what you said!
BLINK
click...
...
!
LET'S GO!
DING DONG
BOO-DUMP
BOO-DUMP
BOO-DUMP
BOO-DUMP

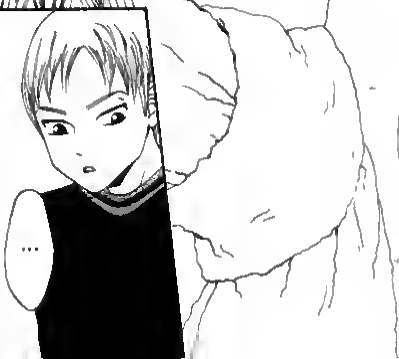
HE'S IN A REALLY BAD MOOD
...
SORRY
I'LL BE LEAVING RIGHT AWAY

STAY AWAY!
WHOA!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE THIS SICK...
I'M SORRY.
...WHY DID YOU COME...?
YOU LITTLE
ARE YOU OKAY?!
WHOA
COUGH HACK

THESE ARE CHOCO-LATES!

I JUST CAME HERE TO GIVE YOU THIS
SWISH!


...
YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT TODAY'S THE 14TH, SO...

I DON'T NEED IT.
Swift Answer.
SHOCKED
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU...? TOMORROW'S YOUR ENTRANCE EXAM, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
Huh..?
WELL, YEAH, SURE... BUT...
...WHAT KIND OF WAY...
OF TALKING TO ME....IS THAT...? IT'S A BIT HARD TO SWALLOW...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SO WHAT? YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO GIVE ME THAT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

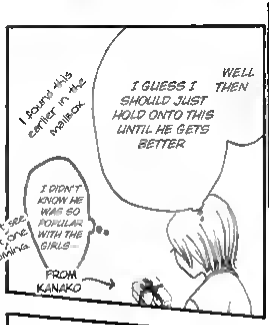
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER DOING STUFF LIKE THIS IT'S A WASTE OF TIME
HURRY UP AND GO HOME ALREADY
SLAM...
Ishou o Sei ni

Sigh...
...
...I SAW YOU...JUST NOW...
AJH2UH
WHOA!
I THOUGHT YOU WENT OUT?!
How long have you been standing there?
I SEE THAT THAT ROTTEN PERSONALITY OF YOURS HASN'T CHANGED
-CHAN
WAVE
How many times do you think I've had to deal with complaints from the neighborhood about you!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO BE NICE TO GIRLS?!
...WHOA!
SQUEEZE
clank
clank
clank
Fire Extinguisher

*"GIRI = CHOCOLATES GIVEN TO FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS, ETC. NOT SOMEONE YOU LIKE

"GIRI"? THAT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE TO ME...
IT DOESN'T MATTER
YOU SHOULDN'T ACT SO COLDLY IN RESPONSE TO OTHER PEOPLE S GOOD INTENTIONS!

SHE WAS TRYING TO GIVE YOU CHOCOLATES, RIGHT...?
SHE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE AND YOU...
SHUT UP!
IT WAS JUST GIRI* CHOCO ANYWAY
COLDLY
COLDLY


I found this earlier in the mailbox.
I GUESS I SHOULD JUST HOLD ONTO THIS UNTIL HE GETS BETTER
WELL THEN
I didn't know he was so popular with the girls...
I didn't see that one coming.
FROM KANAKO

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT THOUGH
HE ALWAYS FEELS EVEN MORE SICK WHEN HE EATS SWEET THINGS WHEN HE HAS A FEVER.
When it's especially bad, he throws up
click
MY

What is she talking about?
It's a no brainer why I reacted the way I did—
REIKO?
YOU SHOULD GO TO SLEEP EARLY SO YOU HAVE LOTS OF ENERGY FOR TOMORROW. ALL RIGHT?
I KNOW.
OH, THAT'S THE PHONE—
I'LL GET IT
R R R
...
DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT WITH YOUR SISTER?
KEIICHI,
HUH? NO, I DIDN'T
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT SHE SEEMS AWFULLY DOWN—
SHE SEEMS DOWN?
R R R R
Perhaps she's just nervous?

ba-dump
My chest constricts and chills, my concentration loss rises all the way to the tips of my fingertips.
"WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?"
This is it—I really did get rejected by him.
ba-dump
ba-dump
My mind goes blank.
...
—every time I remember back to that,
"NO MATTER THE OUTCOME, I'M SURE I'LL BE ABLE TO FACE THE EXAMS HEAD ON BECAUSE IT'LL BE LIKE A WEIGHT'S BEEN LIFTED OFF MY SHOULDERS!"
That's a lie!
My mind's gone completely blank.

You idiot! Tomorrow's your entrance exams!
Ikuu may begin...
FLAP

tick
tock
tick
Has the test started?!
scratch
scratch
scratch
scratch
Huh...?
...what?
...
I'm off to a late start!
FLAD
scrub
scrub

ba-dump
I don't know the answer
I can't answer it.
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump
Why...?
I'm going to fail!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
tick tock tick tock
scratch
scrub scrub
ba-dump

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
...
BEEP
IT WAS A DREAM
I'LL BE GOING NOW...
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
YOU LOOK REALLY PALE.
Are you okay?
WANT ME TO SEE YOU OFF?
I'LL BE FINE...
KEEP YOUR HEAD COOL
YEAH...
DO YOU HAVE YOUR ADMISSION TICKET?
Are you sure you haven't forgotten anything?

click
I WONDER IF SHE IS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT?
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'M GOING TO GO TO THE STATION TO MAKE SURE SHE'S OKAY
BECAUSE OF THE ENTRANCE EXAMS THAT'RE BEING HELD AT HIS SCHOOL HE HAS NO SCHOOL TODAY
OH?
OKAY...
GOOD IDEA
rattle rattle click
Yes, it's great
Kellchi sure does look out for his sister

ba-dump
noise
noise
noise
noise
ba-dump
noise
ba-dump
ba-dump
noise
ba-dump
noise
400 YEN
BA-DUMP
clink clink clink
!!

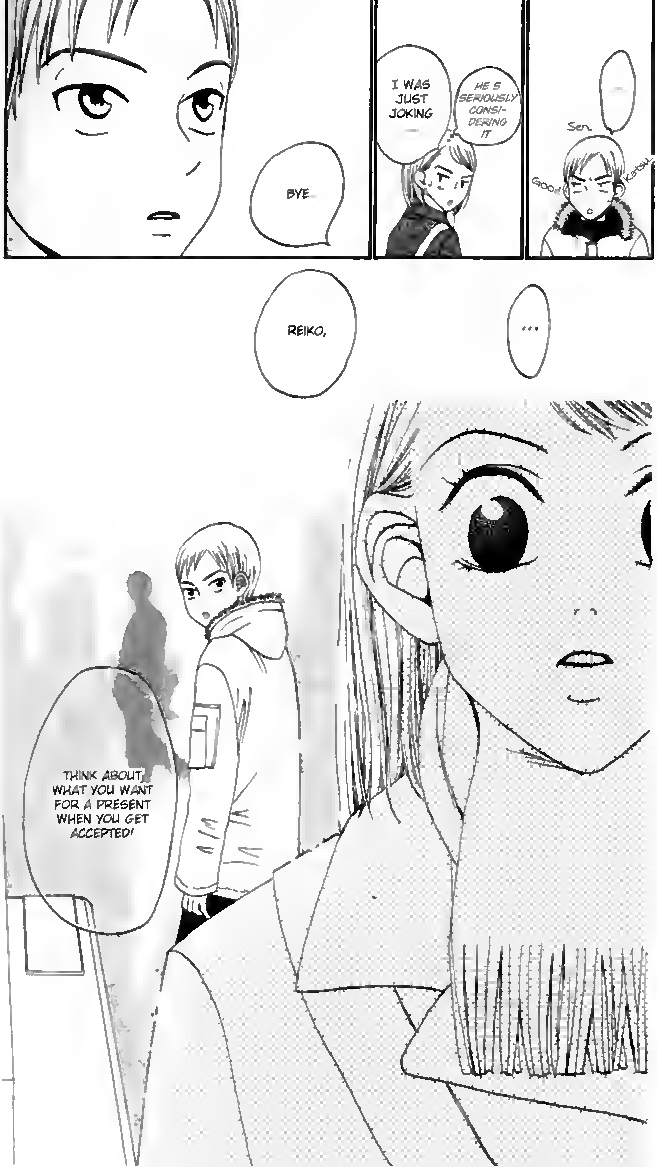
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
cling
WHISTLE
clink clink
clink
Pi!
...this...
At this rate, I am going to fail for sure!
is no use...

AKIBA
WHAT?
YOU'RE SO SCARED ABOUT THE TEST THAT YOU'RE CRYING OVER IT?
Never expected that from someone like you.
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY!
...
AT ANY RATE, STAND UP WILL YA?
there's your ticket.
WAIT. I GUESS THAT JUST MEANS SHE'S FEELING SO MUCH PRESSURE TO DO WELL.

I WAS A BIT TOO HARSH WITH MY WORDS
WHAT...?
I SHOULD'VE BEEN—
COUGH COUGH!
HEY, ARE YOU...
STAY AWAY!
there he goes again.
YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
IT'S STILL THE SAME AS YESTERDAY
WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD VISIT A SICK PERSON WHEN THEY'VE GOT AN IMPORTANT EXAM COMING UP?
Are you retarded or what?
THAT'S WHAT HE WANTED TO SAY YESTERDAY
YOU DON'T GET WHAT KIND OF POSITION YOU'RE IN DO YOU?
AND PLUS,
You seemed like you were really worried on your way over here so we're sorry you're sick.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BOTHER COMING TO GIVE ME A GIRI CHOCO RIGHT BEFORE EXAMS...
You think...
I didn't know you were so thoughtful
...
Are you stupid...?
WHEN MY BRO HAD HIS EXAMS HE WAS A FRIGGIN' PSYCHO ABOUT IT
THAT'S normal though.
I'm gonna kill you if I catch your cold!
HOME OR NOT OK!

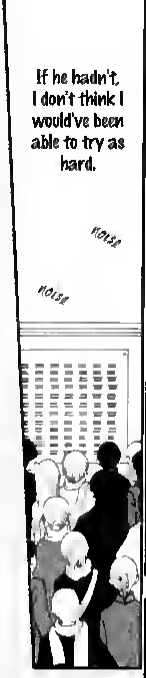
"GIRL"?
SO I SHOULD'VE BEEN MORE CONSIDERATE YOU KNOW?
I KNOW YOU ARE STRESSED OUT ABOUT YOUR EXAMS.
I KNOW THAT IS NO EXCUSE FOR SHOVING IT BACK IN YOUR FACE, SO SORRY...
...
...!
GRABS
WHOA!
...AND WHEN I TRIED CALLING LAST NIGHT,
KEIICHI SAID YOU SEEMED PRETTY DOWN.
...DID HE...
...JUST SAY "GIRL"?
Just now.
SO I...
GIRL...?!
he thought that was girl..?
...h-

How dense is he?!
WHAT?!
WHY ARE YOU SO MAD?!
I'M GOING NOW.
SURE
I'll deal with this once I'm finished with my exams...
LET'S JUST PUT THIS ASIDE FOR NOW
Postpone this.
I CAN'T DENY THAT I'M RELIEVED THOUGH
YO
WHEN DO YOU FIND OUT THE RESULTS?
—ON THE 18TH
OH
NOISE
YOU KNOW.
YOU'VE NEVER CALLED ME BY MY NAME
Now that I think about it
HUH?
NOISE
CAN'T YOU BE CUTE FOR ONCE AND SAY "GOOD LUCK, KATSURAGAWA-SENPAI!"?
NOISE
Especially not a day like today

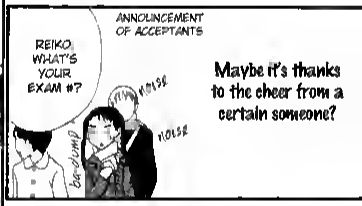

BYE...
I WAS JUST JOKING
HE'S SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING IT
Sen...
Good...
Lucky!
REIKO,
...
THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT FOR A PRESENT WHEN YOU GET ACCEPTED!

NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
...
REIKO! OVER HERE!
Hey SOMEONE looks happy today—
Did something good happen to you or what?

179
183
185
186



—I did pretty good on my exams.



I'm really glad Akiba came when he did.

It looks like I won't be able to get over him anytime soon...

Shoujo Scars

The reason why she can't smile

Volume 3

Translator: Oceansportrait
Proofreader: CreateMagic
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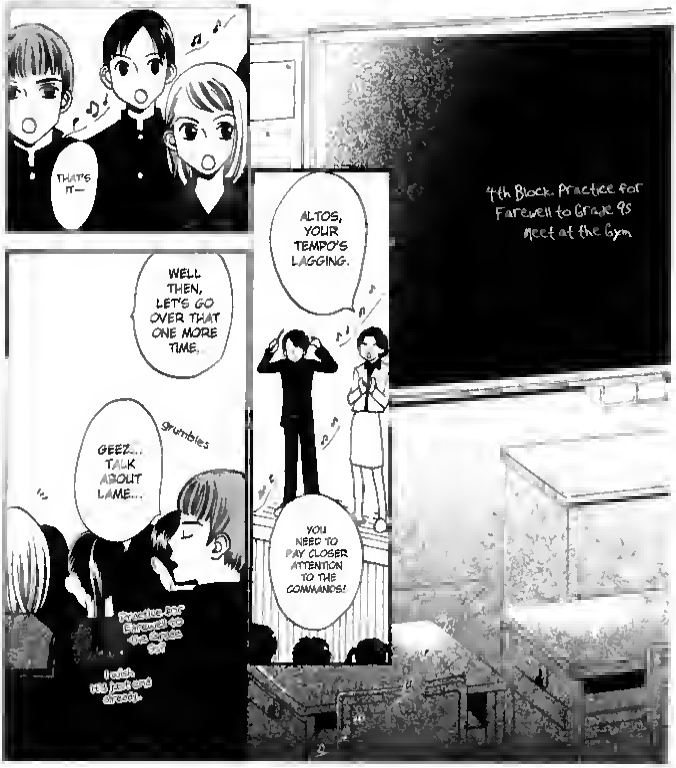
Typesetter: Bipau
Cover: Bel52

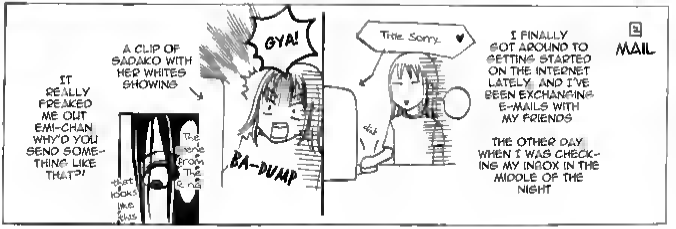
Chapter 14

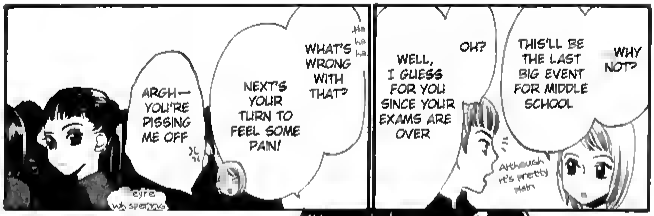
笑えない理由

You're right.
We haven't made an appearance lately

3


THAT'S IT—
4th Block. Practice for Farewell to Grade 9s Meet at the Gym
ALTOS, YOUR TEMPO'S LAGGING.
WELL THEN, LET'S GO OVER THAT ONE MORE TIME.
YOU NEED TO PAY CLOSER ATTENTION TO THE COMMANDS!
grumbles
GEEZ... TALK ABOUT LAME...
Practice for Farewell to the Grade 9s!
I wish this just end already.


IT REALLY FREAKED ME OUT EMI-CHAN. WHY'D YOU SEND SOME-THING LIKE THAT?!
A CLIP OF SADAKO WITH HER WHITES SHOWING
That scene from The Ring
What's with that look?
GYA!
BA-DUMP
Title: Sorry. ♥
I FINALLY GOT AROUND TO GETTING STARTED ON THE INTERNET LATELY, AND I'VE BEEN EXCHANGING E-MAILS WITH MY FRIENDS
THE OTHER DAY, WHEN I WAS CHECK-ING MY INBOX IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
2
MAIL


ARGH— YOU'RE PISSING ME OFF
GIVE ME SYMPATHY
NEXT'S YOUR TURN TO FEEL SOME PAIN!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
HA HA HA
WELL, I GUESS FOR YOU SINCE YOUR EXAMS ARE OVER
OH?
THIS'LL BE THE LAST BIG EVENT FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL
WHY NOT?
Although it's pretty plain

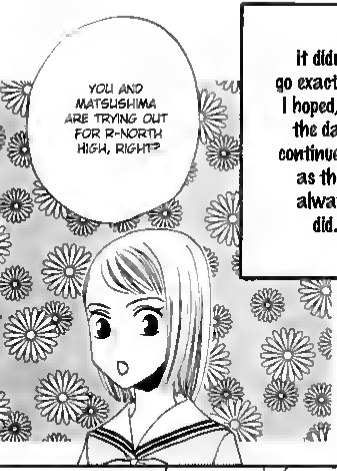
A week has passed since the entrance exams wrapped up.

BUT I'M SAD WE'RE GOING TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS!
ME TOO!
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR EXAMS TOO!
SOB
YEAH!
WHAT ABOUT ME?
THOSE TWO IN THE BACK FROM DIVISION 2!
KEEP DOWN THE CHIT-CHAT!

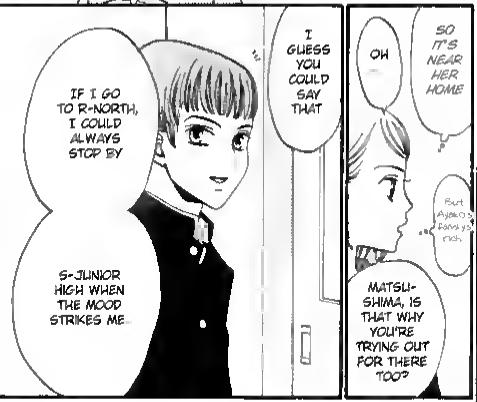
When I got into my top pick for high school,

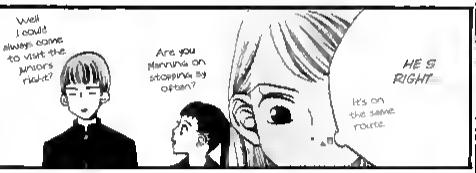
I had hoped that I'd be able to have more confidence in myself, and I'd be able to get over my brother complex. And that I'd at least be able to grow a little as a person, but...

It didn't go exactly as I hoped, and the days continued on as they always did.



DING DONG


I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT
IF I GO TO R-NORTH, I COULD ALWAYS STOP BY S-JUNIOR HIGH WHEN THE MOOD STRIKES ME
OH
SO IT'S NEAR HER HOME
But Ayako's family's rich.
MATSU-SHIMA, IS THAT WHY YOU'RE TRYING OUT FOR THERE TOO?



THAT'S RIGHT...
COULDN'T YOU TRY OUT FOR A BETTER SCHOOL?
Putting aside Matsu-shima
What so I'm put aside?
THE SCHOOL'S NEAR MY HOME, AND AS LONG AS IT'S A PUBLIC SCHOOL, IT WON'T PUT TOO MUCH OF A STRAIN ON MY PARENTS' FINANCES
NAH.

"Reiko, think about what you want for a present when you get accepted!"
... since
exams, my feelings ... to be far ... Akiba strengthened...
flinch
YOU'VE GOT IT TOUGH, KATSURA-GAWA.
The train stations in the completely opposite direction!
K-ZAN'S REALLY FAR FROM HERE.

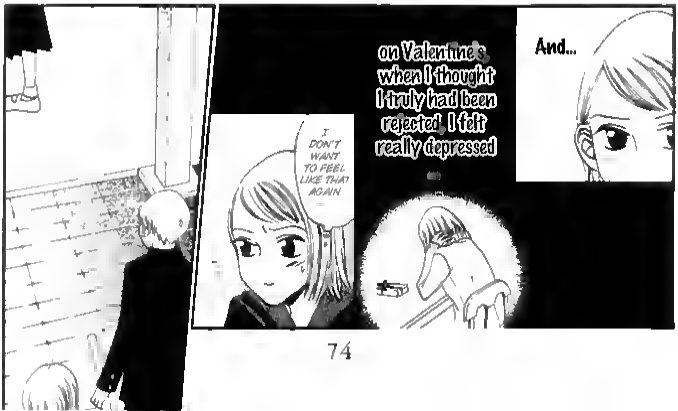
blink
shocked

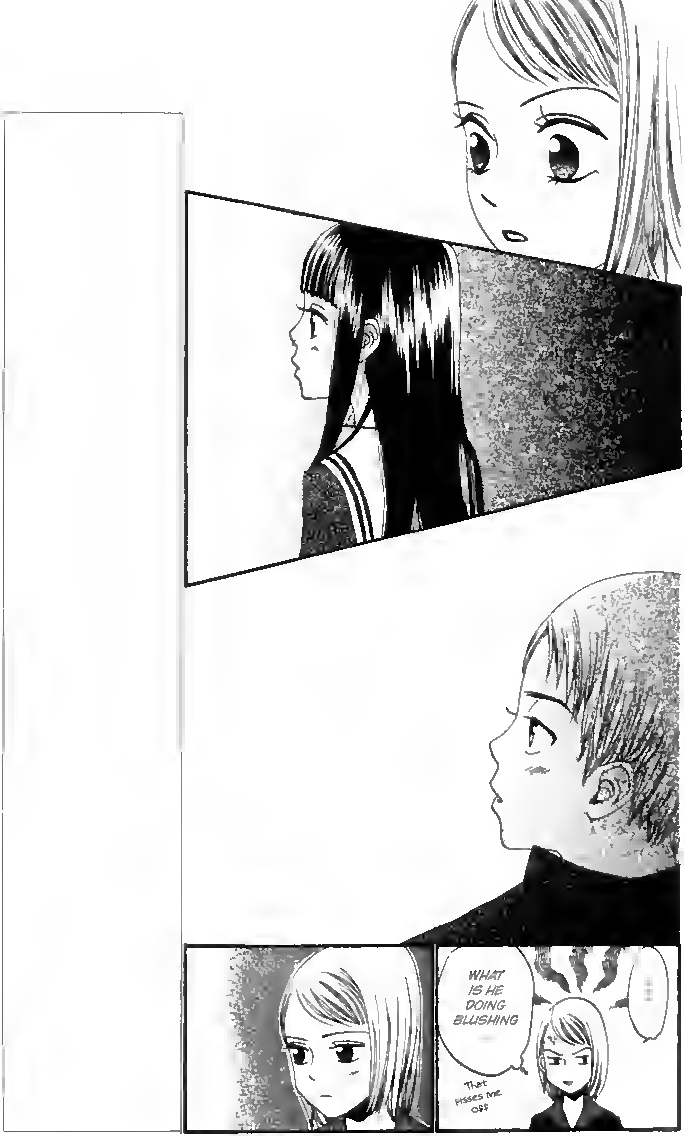
There's... something wrong with me...
SORRY

I KNOW ALL THAT!
Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME THAT...

HEY, THERE'S AKIBA
They're cleaning up carefully.
noise
noise
noise
Lately, when I think about how I won't be able to see Akiba after I graduate, I feel really uneasy.
Beh
AH!
LOVE
Why?
AKIBA'S PLAYING BASEBALL WITH THE FARMS GUYS.
noise
noise
AKIBA'S PLAYING TAG WITH HIS FRIENDS.
does so cute
HAHAHA
Really?

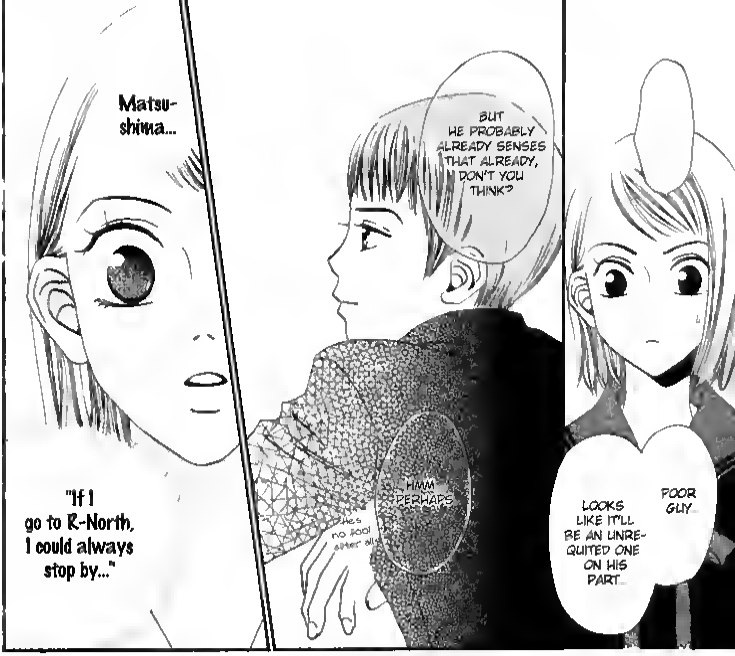
I
afterwards.
Bwahaha
He
to
of
I feel kinda relieved about it now.
...my feelings hadn't reached Akiba after all..
Thanks to him misunderstanding
but

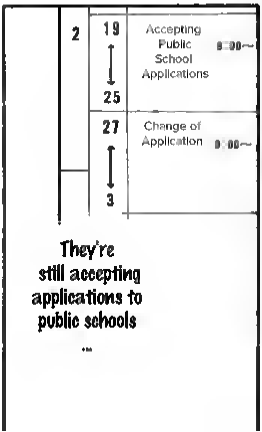

I DON'T WANT TO FEEL LIKE THAT AGAIN
on Valentine's when I thought I truly had been rejected I felt really depressed
And...


WHAT IS HE DOING BLUSHING
That kisses me off

I want him to think of me more than just a friend.
...it's true that I want Akiba to see me as a girl.
YES
WOULD YOU MIND COMING TO THE STAFF ROOM AFTER YOU'RE DONE CLEANING UP?
"I DON'T MIND BEING JUST A FRIEND," HUH?
I don't mind being just a friend ...
But...it's okay,
as long as I can stay by his side.
SQUEEZE
noise
noise
I HAD A FEELING THAT ONCE I WAS OVER WITH EXAMS I'D BE ABLE TO BE A LITTLE STRONGER MENTALLY.
BUT IT WAS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE ON THE CONTRARY I FEEL A LITTLE WEAKER
...yeah, but if Akiba hadn't come when he did, I'm sure I would have messed up on the exams.
IS KATSURAGAWA-SAN HERE?

It might just be that I'm the type who can't accomplish anything alone...
LET'S GO AND PLAY TENNIS!
HMM?
MATSU-SHIMA
I CAN'T. I DIDN'T BRING MY P.E. UNIFORM
There's no need for you to change. You can play as you are.
rattle
EX-CUSE ME—
Staff Room
TEACH, THE CLUB'S BEEN CANCELLED TODAY, RIGHT?
I FIND HIS STRAIGHT-FORWARD-NESS ENDEARING
He's following her with his eyes
NO. I CAN'T! AND BESIDES, I'M BUSY
AH, DON'T TOUCH ANYTING ON THE DESK, OKAY?
No need to make excuses
BUT SUZUKI-SENSEI'S GOING TO GET MARRIED SOON, ISN'T SHE?
AH, SHHH—
THE STUDENTS DON'T KNOW YET.
WELL, THE STUDENTS IN MY CLASS DID!
Weird sentence, geez
HUH? YOU MEAN MATSU-SHIMA FROM DIVISION 2?
HE'S SO EASY TO READ


Matsu-shima...
"If I go to K-North, I could always stop by..."
BUT HE PROBABLY ALREADY SENSES THAT ALREADY, DON'T YOU THINK?
HMM... PERHAPS
He's no fool after all.
POOR GUY...
LOOKS LIKE IT'LL BE AN UNREQUITED ONE ON HIS PART...


2
19 – 25
Accepting Public School Applications 8:00~
27 – 3
Change of Application 8:00~
They're still accepting applications to public schools ...

He's in love with a teacher?
I-I SAW A SIDE OF HIM THAT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE
He knows his love will never be requited, and yet
Ehhh

"If I go to K-North" ...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
I could stay near Akiba ...?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
If I go to K-North, I could always stop by..."
BA-DUMP
EIJI WHAT'D YOU BUY?
A FORK KIMCHI KUN
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO BUY BETWEEN-MEAL SNACKS ON YOUR WAY HOME--

KEIICHI-KUN'S SIS!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
DAMN IT ...
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT.
I quit nursery after club practice
WHAT THAT ARE YOU EATING? LOOKS GOOD! I WANT ONE TOO!
WAIT FOR ME!
LET'S EAT TOGETHER!
Clothes
...HEY,
DO YOU ALWAYS GO HOME THIS LATE?
NOPE.
SCHOOL ENDED LATE FOR ME TODAY BECAUSE I HAD TO PRACTICE MY CONDUCTING.
CONDUC-TING?
...Why did she buy the same thing as me?
THE GIRL WHO WAS ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO DO IT FELL DOWN WITH THE FLU.
THEY SUDDENLY ASKED ME TO HELP OUT OUT OF THE BLUE.
TOMORROW IS THE CHORAL PERFORMANCE TO SAY FARE WELL TO THE GRADE 9S
GRABS
...!
WELL, I'LL BE GOING NOW!
See ya tomorrow, Yuki!
I
DID THE CONDUCTING FOR THE FALL CHORAL COMPETITION, AND SO THEY TOLD ME I WAS THE PERFECT REPLACEMENT ...
HUH... SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WORK.
That's why I was practicing up until now in the music room.
I'll check you on from the back.
I'll watch you screw up.
Sil...ence...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
I STILL HAVEN'T CONGRATULATED YOU ON GETTING ACCEPTED INTO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL
WOW
We're all alone.
CONGRATS.
I-I
DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!
MMM
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, AKIRA!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE TO CHEER ME UP!
brightens up
OH...
REALLY THOUGH!
I COULD'VE NEVER DONE THIS ALONE!
I WAS ABLE TO GET IN BECAUSE YOU CAME TO SEE ME!

AH...
REMEMEBER HOW YOU PROMISED ME THAT YOU'D GIVE ME SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE MY ACCEPTANCE?
YEAH
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL THAT YOU CAME THAT DAY!
HURRY UP AND DECIDE ALREADY
OTHER WISE IT DOESN'T
I
THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT
BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO MAKE UP MY MIND!
SO YOU DECIDE FOR ME, AKIBA!
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THIS UP.

ALWAYS USED TO BE LIKE THIS?
...
IF IT'S FROM AKIRA, I'D BE HAPPY WITH ANYTHING.
SO YOU SHOULD DECIDE ON YOUR OWN!
... DID SHE
OKAY THEN... I'LL THINK ABOUT IT A LITTLE MORE ...
I'M HOME —
WEL-COME BACK.
AH, HEY.
...
TELL MOM I'LL EAT IT LATER, OKAY?
I'm out right now.
DINNER'S READY.
YOU'RE PRETTY LATE.
IS SCHOOL FUN FOR YOU?
HUH?
YEAH, SURE.
OH...
IS THAT RIGHT ...
... but ... I can't ...

Although I was ecstatic when I found out I got accepted...
My whole family was pretty excited about it too
I knew you could do it!
Congrats!
Good for you.
Congratulations!
But ...
SIS

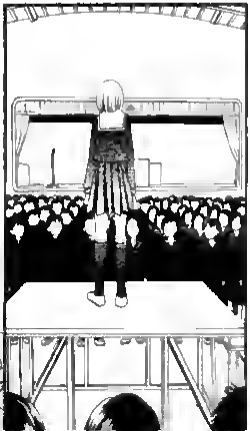
But there are things more important than school, right?
Weirdo
?
WHAT?
NO, NEVER MIND
noise
noise

noise
noise
noise
TO CONTINUE THE GRADE NINE REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE GIVING A THANK YOU SPEECH.
AS WELL AS A WORD OF ADVICE TO THE GRADE SIX AND SEVENS.
It was never like this before ...
When it was the end of competition I was fine.
YO REIKO
I HEARD YOU'RE GOING TO BE CONDUCTING TODAY?
YEAH
WHOA
I'M UP SOON
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
They're in the midst of the farewell ceremony for the grade 9s
DON'T MESS UP~
BA-DUMP
NO SWEAT
BA-DUMP
But ever since the day of the entrance exam ...
noise
noise
BA-DUMP
Oh.. no...
I'm getting nervous ...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP
WHOA, HERE I GO
Why do I get the sense that I'm becoming more and more susceptible to nervousness. ..?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
NEXT, IS THE GRADE NINE LEAD CHORUS
GLANCES
BA-DUMP
!!
taken aback

Oh shoot ...
Calm down!
Calm down!
BA-DUMP
I'm letting it get to me!
Pat
Pat
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
You've done this before.
This isn't a big deal!
Compared to the entrance exams ...
This isn't a big ...
AH
CLATTER

BA-DUMP
... It's no use.
REIKO-CHAN
BA-DUMP
I can't do it
BA-DUMP
I might mess up ...!
blinks
BA-DUMP
ooh
ooh



...when I saw Akiba's face, my nervousness melted away.

"If I go to R-North, I could always stop by..."

In that moment, my mind was made up.

noise

noise

noise

REIKO-CHAN—

LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER.

clap

clap

clap

HUH?
COULD YOU LEAVE AHEAD OF ME TODAY?
OH, SORRY.
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO DISCUSS WITH THE TEACHER.
I can't part from Akiba, after all.
WHAT?!
YOU WANT TO TRY OUT FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL?
YEAH.
BUT WHY?!
THERE'S A SCHOOL I WANT TO GO TO.
R-NORTH?!
IT'S RANKED LOWER THAN K-ZAN!
THERE'S A SCHOOL WHICH ONE?
R-NORTH HIGH.
IT DOESN'T MATTER THE RANK.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
YOU'VE HAD YOUR EYE ON K-ZAN FOR THE LONGEST TIME!
I'M BACK.
THAT'S RIGHT! AND AFTER ALL THAT EFFORT YOU PUT INTO STUDYING—

I DON'T CARE! I WANT TO GO TO R-NORTH!
KEIICHI
blinks
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO
K-ZAN?
I saw the expression on his face, I felt a momentary rush of reason.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?
I AM.
COME WITH ME FOR A SECOND!
!!
WHAT ARE—
...
I'M NOT.
But there's no turning back.

WELL, R-NORTH HIGH IS THE ONE CLOSEST TO S-JUNIOR HIGH
BA-DUMP
WH
IS IT BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE EIJI?
HOW DID YOU
I HIT IT RIGHT ON TARGET?
I THOUGHT YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD SINCE THE DAY OF THE EN-TRANCE EXAMS
BUT I THOUGHT IT DIDN'T REALLY MATTER WHO YOU LIKED

WHAT WAS THE POINT IN YOU STUDYING SO HARD UP UNTIL NOW THEN, HUH?!
I'M AGAINST THIS
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE EIJI?
YOU KNOW HE HAS SOMEONE THAT HE LIKES, DON'T YOU?
BUT HOW CAN YOUR FEELINGS CHANGE SO EASILY?!
YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO K-ZAN HIGH, DIDN'T YOU?!

YOUR HOPES WILL NEVER BE REALIZED!
I CAN'T GIVE HIM UP!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME WANTING TO STAY BY HIS SIDE?!
I KNOW THAT
...BUT...

I'M GOING TO DECIDE MY FUTURE!
SO DON'T STICK YOUR HEAD IN WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG!
SIS ...
dashes
....
After that,
I was the deadline.

I haven't talked to Keiichi since that day.
SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU
I WAS SURPRISED WHEN I FIRST HEARD ABOUT IT
I'M HAPPY WE CAN APPLY TO THE SAME SCHOOL
THAT'S OKAY.
My [illegible] it, but I'm sure with time [illegible] will ...
I'm going to try out for K-North High.
BUT DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
... I HEARD YOU'RE TRYING OUT FOR K-NORTH HIGH.
... this was my decision ...
and yet, why does my heart feel so heavy ...?
...but I can't talk about this with Ayako.
... IT'S NOTHING ...
... It's not like I did anything wrong, right ...?

Shoujo Scars

The Reason Why She Can't Smile

Volume 3

Translator: Oceansportrait
Proofreader: Creative Magic
Cleaner: Kuu
Typesetter: Monmedel
Quality Checker: Monmedel & Kuu

Chapter 15

The Reason Why She Can't Smile
Yep that's the one
Is that true?
You mean Yuri? The girl with the orng hair?
Really?
A he he he
I swear to God

And in the summer even when it's super hot outside. I like walking alongside thick green trees with sweat pouring down my body. The raw power of summer is kinda scary but awesome at the same time.

Oh I'm feeling overwhelmed by a strength of nostalgia to the point I'm starting to feel a bit woozy

I'm sensitive to the cold and I have low blood pressure. It sucks
A kotatsu
Have you guys checked out TJShoujo's online reader? Scans are kept at their PNG format just go to http://www.jsf-oujoscan.com/reader

I don't mind summer I used to love winter before but with every year that passed I became weaker and weaker against the cold so I don't like it anymore

2 Summer

The Reason Why She Can't Smile

The R-North High entrance exams will be in ten days..

Hinch!
WELL, HERE I AM.
SWISH
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WELL, IT'S NOT THAT IMPORTANT BUT
IT WAS JUST NOW THAT THE OTHER ENTRANCE EXAM IS COMING UP I'M STARTING TO FEEL A BIT UNEASY
It's been a while since I told Akiba that I've decided to change the main school that I want to try out for.
"I GUESS I NEED TO WAIT TO GET YOU YOUR PRESENT TO CELEBRATE GETTING INTO HIGH SCHOOL FOR LATER, HUH?"
Akiba did seem a bit surprised when I told him I decided not to go to K-zan High
Like this
Huh? Seriously? You're not gonna go to K-zan?
He didn't say anything negative about it though...
ESPECIALLY SINCE I TOLD HIM RIGHT AFTER KEIICHI TOLD ME HE WAS AGAINST IT
so I feel really relieved about that..

Even if it's as a friend, as long as I can stay by his side...
...It doesn't matter
WELL, WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME TALKING TO YOU ABOUT IT?
...IT'S LIKE WHEN I TRIED OUT FOR K-ZAN...
"YOUR HOPES WILL NEVER BE REALIZED!"
BA-DUMP
HMM? YEAH?
I ALWAYS THINK THIS BUT
YOU KNOW...
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS COME AND TALK TO ME ABOUT IT, ANYWAY?
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR EXAMS DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER OFF TALKING ABOUT IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS IN THE SAME GRADE AS YOU THAN WITH SOMEONE LIKE ME?
I SEE HE'S AS DENSE AS EVER
That's right...
it's been a while since I decided to try out for K-North...
SO
I FEEL AT EASE WHEN YOU'RE AROUND!
THINGS WENT REALLY WELL BECAUSE YOU CHEERED ME ON!

I'VE BEEN THINKING THIS FOR A WHILE NOW...
"What was the point in you studying so hard up until now then, huh?"
and yet my feelings are still unstable...
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING JUST NOT RIGHT ABOUT YOU LATELY
A ha ha ha...
I was supposed to be satisfied with just being able to be by Akiha's side...
I'd decided I wouldn't go to K-zan High...
and yet...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S LIKE WITH THE ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR K-ZAN, TOO.
Muh...?
SO MAKE ME FEEL IT'S OK THIS TIME AROUND, TOO...
EVEN IF I HADN'T SHOWED UP THAT TIME IT WOULDN'T HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE RESULTS.
IT'S NOT LIKE I DID ANYTHING
Like I told you before.

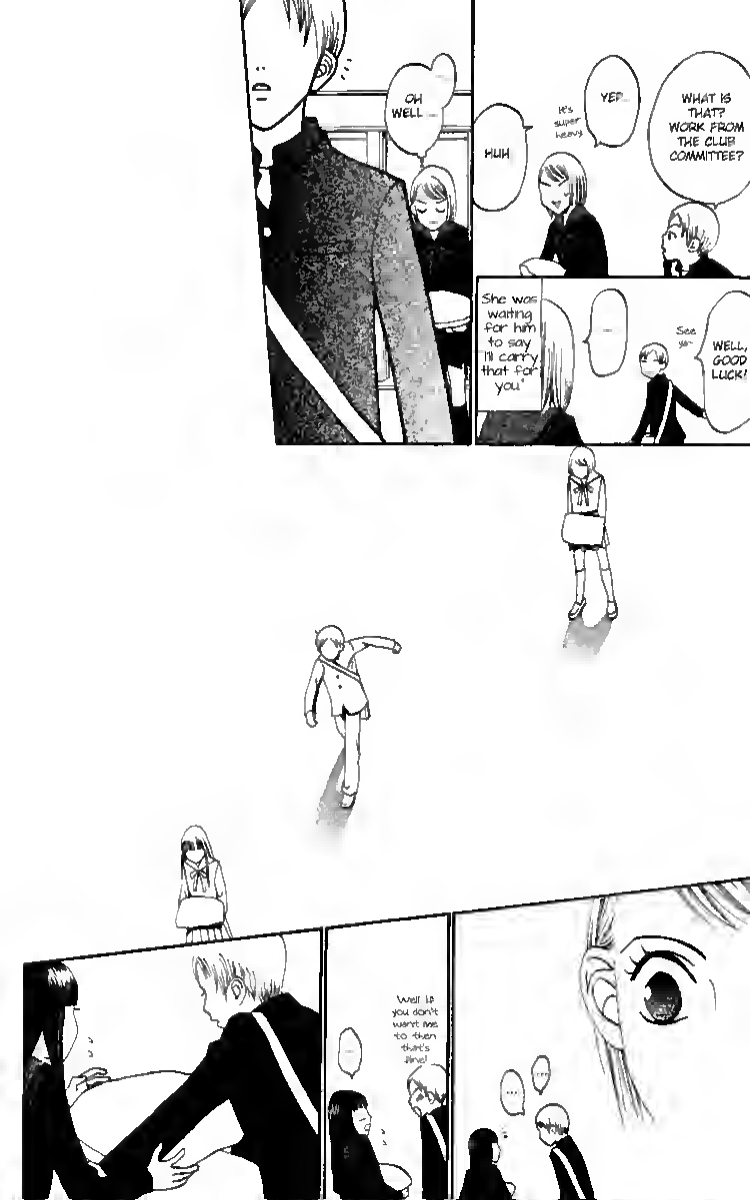
NOT TRUE!
THAT'S
—
REGARDLESS OF HOW MUCH SOMEONE CHEERED YOU ON, IF YOU WERE GOING TO GET IN YOU WOULD'VE GOTTEN IN AND IF YOU WEREN'T, THEN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE
IT WAS YOUR SKILLS THAT GOT YOU INTO K-ZAN HIGH, YOU KNOW?
SO ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT FEELING UNEASY—
YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE FAITH IN YOUR ABILITIES!
My... abilities...?
OH, AND I HEARD
THAT YOU GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH KEIICHI OVER DECIDING TO CHANGE SCHOOLS?
"
WHAT?!
YOU HEARD FROM KEIICHI?!
That steamer-mouth!
WHAT DID HE SAY?!
That little twerp
Why are you so mad?

HE BETTER NOT HAVE SAID ANYTHING HE SHOULDN'T HAVE
DON'T MAKE HIM WORRY TOO MUCH YOU KNOW?
He's a good kid.
HE SEEMED REALLY WORRIED TOO, YOU KNOW
I only heard this much.
Since you suddenly switched schools like that
I heard your ss s trying out for R-North?
Yeah we ended up getting into a fight over it (a forced smile)
ARE YOU AGAINST ME TRYING OUT FOR R-NORTH, TOO?
OH SO HE JUST THINKS OF THIS AS SOMETHING THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM
BUT
NOT REALLY?
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A REASON TO BE AGAINST IT
I KNOW HOW ATTACHED YOU ARE TO K-ZAN, SO I'M WORRIED
Wondering how to get in touch with the people who bring you this lovely translated manga?
Why don't you try visiting them at their IRC channel #ishoujo at the IRCHighWay!
WE'LL LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Ishoujo

A HA HA HA ...
A HA HA HA ...
But I...
ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO K-ZAN HIGH?
OKAY, EVERYONE!
THIS WILL BE THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING...
NOISE
NOISE
NEED TO GO IN THE STORAGE AND GET THE SOIL FOR THE FLOWER GARDEN...
AND THE BOYS FROM 1-4 AND 3-2
The teacher is distributing the jobs.
AND 2-4 IS IN CHARGE OF PUTTING POSTERS
DAMN IT. IT'S SO CLOSE TO THE PUBLIC ENTRANCE EXAMS
passed it!
Let us go home already
passed it!
(Grade 9s)
OKAY THEN, THAT'S IT!
SO EVERYONE WORK YOUR HARDEST, ALL RIGHT?

The first Beautification Club Committee meeting in a while

YOU HAVE YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS COMING UP SOON, RIGHT?
HUH?
Then maybe it's better if you go home and rest
I HEARD THAT YOU'RE TRYING OUT FOR THE SAME SCHOOL AS MY SISTER
SINCE THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TIME FOR YOU...
AH... IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, I CAN DO THIS BY MYSELF...
SO THE BOYS FROM YOUR CLASS ARE ABSENT?
OH,
WELL IT'S MORE LIKE THEY SKIPPED
WELL THEN I'M SORRY TO ASK THIS FROM YOU... BUT CAN YOU GIRLS DO THE JOB?
It's not some thing girls should be doing, but...
GEEE...
Carrying Soil
IT'S SO HEAVY!
THUD
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
But...
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GONNA LET A YOUNGER GIRL WHO'S SMALLER THAN ME DO ALL OF IT
It'll be easy peasy for me to get in
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
ARE YOU HEADING TO CLUB PRACTICE?
YO
Talk about great timing!
AH- AKIBA!
I GUESS SHE'S A SORTY TOO HUH?
SO GET GOING ALREADY!


OH WELL...
HUH
It's super heavy
YEP
WHAT IS THAT? WORK FROM THE CLUB COMMITTEE?
She was waiting for him to say "I'll carry that for you."
...
See ya~
WELL, GOOD LUCK!
Well if you don't want me to then that's fine!
...
...

Don't worry about it. It's pretty light!
...
AH!
KAT-SURAG AWA!
THAT LOOKS HEAVY. LET ME CARRY IT.
I'll carry it for you
He's late.
TAKE-ATTACK!
...It doesn't matter if we're just friends, as long as I can be by his side..?
Even if it means I'll suffer...?

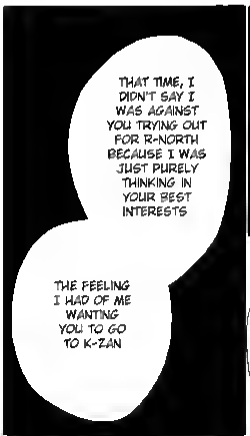
HEY, WHAT'S UP?
—WHAT WOULD YOU DO, MATSUSHIMA,
IF YOU'RE IN A BOXED-IN SITUATION THAT YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF?
LIKE FALLING FOR A PERSON THAT'LL NEVER LOVE YOU BACK?
—No matter how long I stay by his side,
as long as we're just friends, there'll never come a time when he'll treat me as a girl like he does with her.
—WELL.
IF IT WERE ME, I'D KEEP GOING AT IT UNTIL I FELT SATISFIED—
I'm still a kid so I'm not good with just giving something up.
I knew that.
I knew who he cares about.
I knew, and yet..

...but I don't want to part from Akiba.
I should...do what I think is best?
I chose K-North High...
If he's not near me, I become uneasy, and I can't do anything...
"YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE FAITH IN YOUR ABILITIES!"
If I'm alone, I...
even though I knew it'd be painful for me?
BUT YOU'RE NOT ME
YOU SHOULD DO WHAT YOU THINK IS BEST...
Chiharu let me hold them.
SHE SEEMED REALLY LONELY SAYING STUFF LIKE "REIKO-CHAN WON'T OPEN UP TO ME."
And there is that about you suddenly switching to Akiba...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP IN YOUR LIFE,
BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER OFF TALKING ABOUT IT WITH FUSEYA?
He's referring to Ayako.
.. My abilities..?
"IT WAS YOUR SKILLS THAT GOT YOU INTO K-ZAN HIGH YOU KNOW?"
IF IT'S JUST TO HEAR YOU OUT, I CAN LEND YOU AN EAR, TOO
You should share everything with us inside.

I don't know what I should do.
I don't even know if I should try to talk about it with Ayako...
I'm so jealous that you're so good at literature, Reiko-san.
But you're good in science and math.
Without having figured out what to do, the entrance exam inched closer and closer...
Everything's just a mess in my mind..
I'M BACK
I'M SORRY AYAKO
I'LL THINK ABOUT WHETHER I SHOULD OPEN UP TO YOU ABOUT IT AFTER THE EXAMS...
R-NORTH HIGH'S ENTRANCE EXAM IS FINALLY TOMORROW HUH?
I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN AWHILE THAT WE'VE TALKED!
So he was home.
THAT SCARED ME
MOM, ARE YOU HERE?
silence
WELCOME BACK
FLINCH
!!
I'M BACK
!
GOOD LUCK

I THOUGHT YOU WERE AGAINST ME TRYING OUT FOR R-NORTH?
WAIT,

SO JUST FORGET ABOUT WHAT I SAID BEFORE
YEAH.
BUT I'M OVER IT NOW.


THAT TIME, I DIDN'T SAY I WAS AGAINST YOU TRYING OUT FOR R-NORTH BECAUSE I WAS JUST PURELY THINKING IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS
THE FEELING I HAD OF ME WANTING YOU TO GO TO K-ZAN

WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
WAIT JUST A SECOND!
WHY'RE YOU SUDDENLY HUMMING A DIFFERENT TUNE?!
@rada
Talk about creeping me out!

...I FELT BAD ABOUT IT LATER
...
Creeping you out?

WHAT PART OF ME IS WEAK?!
WELL, SINCE WE WERE KIDS, MOM AND DAD WERE ALWAYS STRICTER WITH YOU, RIGHT?
I ALWAYS HAD IT MADE UP IN MY MIND THAT YOU WERE A WEAK PERSON
I THINK UP UNTIL NOW, I UNDER-ESTIMATED YOU
WHA...
HAD TOO MUCH OF MY PERSONAL WISHES MIXED IN YOU KNOW?
OH, AND--
GROWING UP, I SAW YOU IN THE CORNER CRYING,
MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT, HURTING FROM IT
I THINK THAT WAS ALL THE MORE REASON FOR ME NOT WANTING TO SEE YOU HURT AND CRYING OVER EIJI
MAYBE THAT'S WHERE THAT MINDSET CAME FROM...

I'M NOT STRONG...!
SO YOU SHOULD TRY OUT FOR THE SCHOOL THAT YOU TRULY WANT TO GO TO
I...
IF IT'S YOU, SIS, I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET INTO R-NORTH WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT.
What was the school I wanted to truly go to in the first place?
BUT YOU'RE STRONG NOW.
HUH...?
YOU DID FINE WHEN IT CAME TO THE K-ZAN ENTRANCE EXAMS.
I'M...NOT STRONG...
YOU WERE ABLE TO OVERCOME THAT OBSTACLE BY YOURSELF.
I'M NOT...
I GUESS THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO WORRY ANYMORE HUH?

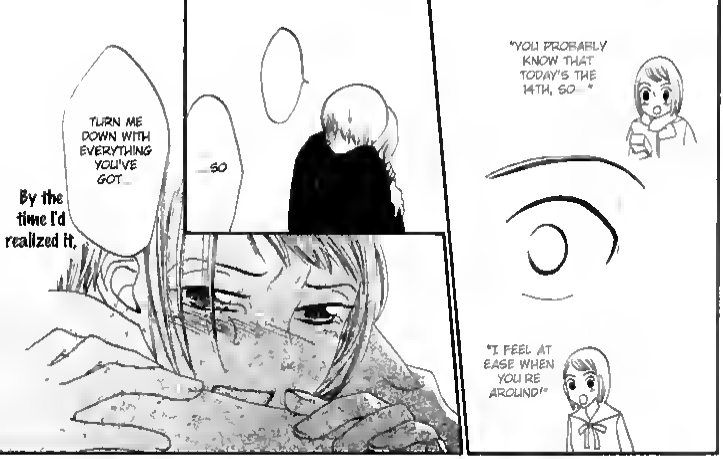
"I GOT A CHANCE TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AND COMPARE IT TO OTHER SCHOOLS."
"AND IT MADE ME START THINKING THAT I REALLY DO WANT TO GET IN."
"YOU'RE GOING TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS ME, COME SPRING RIGHT?"
"...AND I REALLY DID TAKE A LIKING TO IT."
NOISE
NOISE
YOU KNOW THE PUBLIC ONES?
OH, THAT'S CAUSE OF THE ENTRANCE EXAMS
NOT MANY GRADE 9S ARE HERE TODAY.
MY OLDER BROS GOT HIS ENTRANCE EXAM TODAY TOO
OH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH ME FOR A SEC?
!!
taken aback
WHOA!
PULL
Integrated Learning Room
RATTLE
WAIT! HEY
YOU
CLICK
WHAT ABOUT YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS?!
If it's here no one should come by

FOR GETTING INTO HIGH SCHOOL...
...I THOUGHT OF WHAT I WANT AS A PRESENT
I WANT YOU TO TURN ME DOWN
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT ON MY OWN THIS TIME AROUND
SO YOU'LL HEAR ME OUT, RIGHT...?
WITHOUT SHOWING ME AN OUNCE OF MERCY
WHAT IS IT?

WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD...
HUH...?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT AS A PRESENT
OTHER-WISE, I...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO GET AT...
WAIT...
SO DOES THAT MEAN
THAT YOU LIKE ME...?

RUSTLE
THAT'S RIGHT
I LIKE YOU!!!
!!!
BUT I KNOW
THAT YOU HAVE SOMEONE THAT YOU LIKE!
I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU'LL NEVER LOOK MY WAY.


"YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT TODAY'S THE 14TH, SO..."
"I FEEL AT EASE WHEN YOU'RE AROUND!"
...SO
TURN ME DOWN WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT...
By the time I'd realized it,

I don't know in exactly what way, but it wasn't right...

I'd become too dependant on Akiba.

I became weaker and weaker.

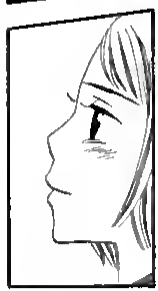
I lost confidence in myself

to the point that I didn't know what school I even wanted to attend anymore...

...so in order for me to be able to take a step forward alone..
SO TURN ME DOWN
SO SHE SAYS BUT THAT ABOUT OUT OF THE BLUE...
...WHO IS IT THAT YOU LIKE?
Ding
Dong
Dong
Ding

1-1
Rattle
SHUT UP!
Oooh? Someone's in a bad mood~
YO, WHERE WERE YOU ALL DAY? Don't tell me you were in bed?
whistle whistle
In the bath room?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! YOU'RE TEN MINUTES LATE!
I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE
Meet up your self at once!
Y-yaaa!!
whistle
Gather around
kya
Y-yaaa!!
was just him taking responsibility for his actions...
I THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT FOR A PRESENT?
the stuff he did that I thought he was doing to cheer me up,
I'LL SHOW YOU JUST HOW HONEST I CAN BE
.. Now that I think back to it,

they couldn't have come at a better time that I mistook his actions for kindness directed at me...
And yet...



It reminds me so much of the day that I first met Akiba a year earlier

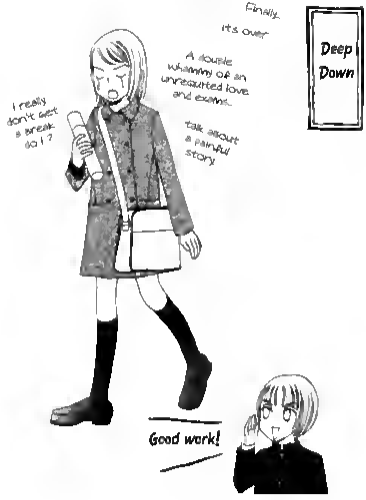
—It's such a beautiful spring day today...

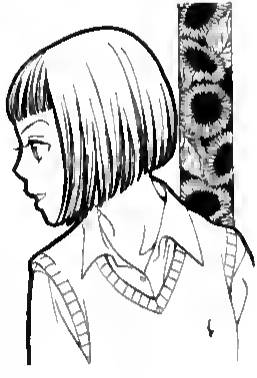
Goodbye,
Akiba, and
thank you..

OH,
SO THAT WAS WHAT HAPPENED
NOISE
NOISE
Can we take a pic with you?
Senpai
SORRY SORRY
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ALL THIS STUFF EARLIER?!
YEAH. NO KIDDING!
It's the same as the day of the entrance exams when you didn't show up do you know how worried I was?!
You're so cruel
Yeah, the teacher got really mad with me too for the same thing.
.. for starters, I opened up to Ayako about everything that had been going on in my life.
Since exams are over
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU LIKED AKIBA-KUN THOUGH...
That was a shocker!
SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU IN THE DARK FOR SO LONG.
—Graduation day.
NOISE
NOISE
The 44th Annual S-Junior High Graduation Ceremony
If you're wondering why, it's because I made a promise with Ayako's sis that I would keep it a secret that she likes Akiba.
HUH?
I wonder why?
BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING THAT LEAVES ME A BIT HANGING ABOUT YOUR STORY...
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO KEEP IT A SECRET THAT AKIBA LIKES AYAKO'S SIS...?
THAT'S BECAUSE I TOOK OUT ALL THE PARTS THAT INVOLVED YOUR LITTLE SIS...

Does he have no manners?
OH, AND THAT SIR SULK NEXT TO YOU HAS NOTHING TO SAY?
CONGRATS!
Sir Su, you're still going on about that?
CONGRATS ON YOUR GRAD!
You too Eunbyol's sis.
THANKS, HIROO
Ah Keiriku-kun's sis!
That's more like it.
OKAY, GATHER CLOSE TOGETHER NOW—
MATSU-SHIMA!
Where is he?
There you can have this.
That's something the younger students gave to you isn't it?
Let's line up
Sure.
I can take the pic!
OKAY THEN— —LET'S TAKE A GROUP PHOTO!
AYAKO'S SIS!

Flash
Katsuragawa Reiko. 15 years old. Graduation.
It's a Spring in which I grew as a person.
...And this is just a guess:
AKIBA-KUN... DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE...?
HUH...?
WELL, I THINK I'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN AT HIS EXPENSE DON'T YOU THINK?
Giggle
Who knows.
What's going on?


Finally.
It's over
Deep Down
A double whammy of an unrequited love and exams.
Talk about a painful story
I really don't get a break do I?
Good work!



Shoujo Scars
The reason why she can't smile
Volume 3
Translator: Oceansportrait
Proofreading: CreateMagic
Cleaner: CreateMagic
Typesetter: Monmedel
Qu er: Bel52
Chapter 16

Scars

I've messed up many times in life due to my taciturnity

And with every mistake, a scar is left;

and even though it seems to have healed, it still hurts when I touch it

IT'S NICE TO TAKE A DRIVE IN THE RAIN FROM TIME TO TIME DON'T YOU THINK?
I FIGURED SINCE I'M STILL A NEW DRIVER, THAT I SHOULD STICK WITH SOMETHING LIKE THIS
Aw, I don't have much money.
YOU KNOW, I GOT THIS CAR SECOND HAND FOR DIRT CHEAP.
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, ALL RIGHT?
OH, BUT EVEN THOUGH I'M A NEW DRIVER, I'M A SUPER CAREFUL DRIVER.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO LAUGHING ABOUT?

The First Wound

HEY
THE WINDOWS ARE CLOUDING UP?
THIS CAR DOESN'T HAVE AIR CONDITIONING
I'M GOING TO OPEN THE WINDOW JUST A CRACK
HOW NICE~
YOU TWO ARE STILL OF AN AGE WHEN YOU CAN HAVE FUN OVER JUST THE SMALLEST THINGS

I HEARD MY SIS GOT DUMPED BY HER BOY-FRIEND
DING DONG
La la la la
I HEARD YOU STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE FRIENDS AT SCHOOL?
TAKESHI, I HEARD YOU DON'T GIVE HER THE TIME OF DAY AT SCHOOL?
TALK ABOUT COLD--YOU TWO ARE COUSINS!
HMM? SO WHAT?
YOUR MOM'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THAT, YOU KNOW?
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE ALL BUDDY-BUDDY WITH YOUR COUSIN AT SCHOOL?
But what if you aren't friends with any girls at school?
WELL, AREN'T YOU EVER THE HARD-HEADED ONE.
--SAO -CHAN-

EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TALK ABOUT, WHY DON'T YOU TRY TALKING ABOUT WHATEVER?
BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T, YOUR CLASS-MATES WON'T BE ABLE TO GET TO KNOW YOU.
AND YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK RIGHT?
IF YOU DON'T OPEN UP
AND SAY WHAT YOU TRULY THINK,
— IF YOU DON'T MIND ME SAYING,
YOU'RE A BIT ON THE QUIET SIDE YOU KNOW?
W BANK
—OH!
YOU MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY YOUR PEERS AND THEN THEY MIGHT NOT LET YOU INTO THEIR GROUP— THAT'S WHAT AUNTIE SAID.
Si...lence...
I'M GOING TO GO AND WITHDRAW SOME MONEY
SORRY BUT WOULD YOU MIND WAITING HERE FOR A MINUTE?
SLAM

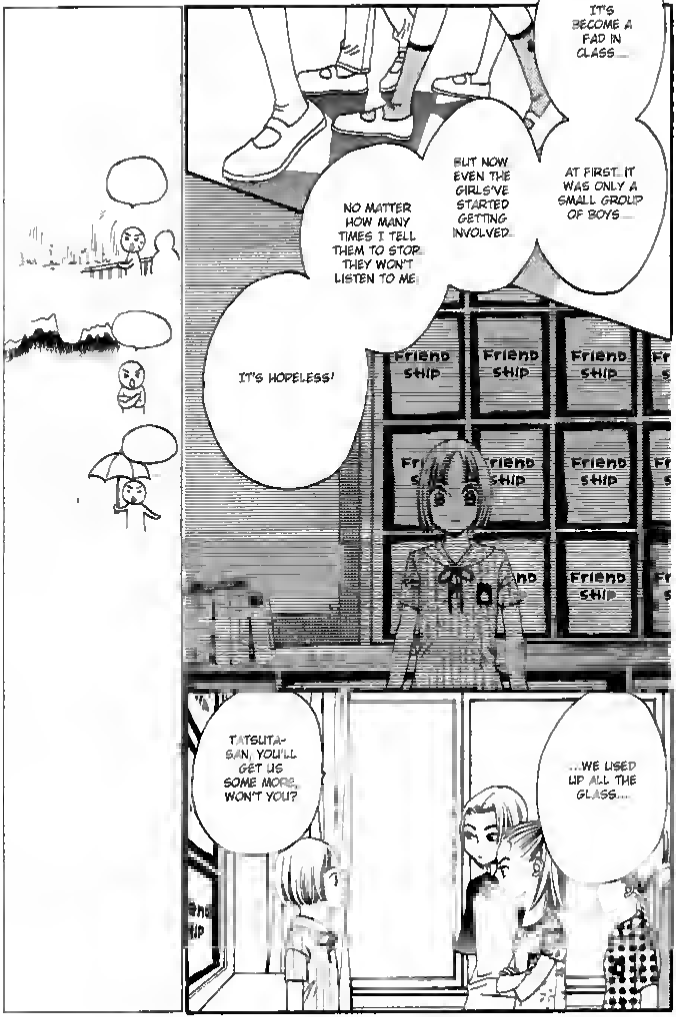
...WHAT?
WHY NOT? LET ME JUST TOUCH YOU.
TAKE...
HEY...
HUH...?
NO!
pourr
splash
splash

click
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
OKAY, LET'S GET...
W-
WHAT HAPPENED?!
MY STOMACH HURTS...
OW-
SQUEEZE
RIGHT?
SERI-OUSLY?!
WHAT?!
SAO SAID HER STOMACH HURTS

AHHH —WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
DO YOU WANT TO USE THE BATHROOM?
SHE SAID IT'S OKAY.
SHE JUST WANTS TO GO HOME.
OKAY, GOT IT!
I'LL TRY TO GET YOU HOME AS SOON AS I CAN, SO JUST HOLD ON, OKAY?
...Why am I pretending like my stomach hurts?
"—SAY WHAT YOU TRULY THINK—"
Why can't I tell her the truth?
"What I truly think"? How do I do that?

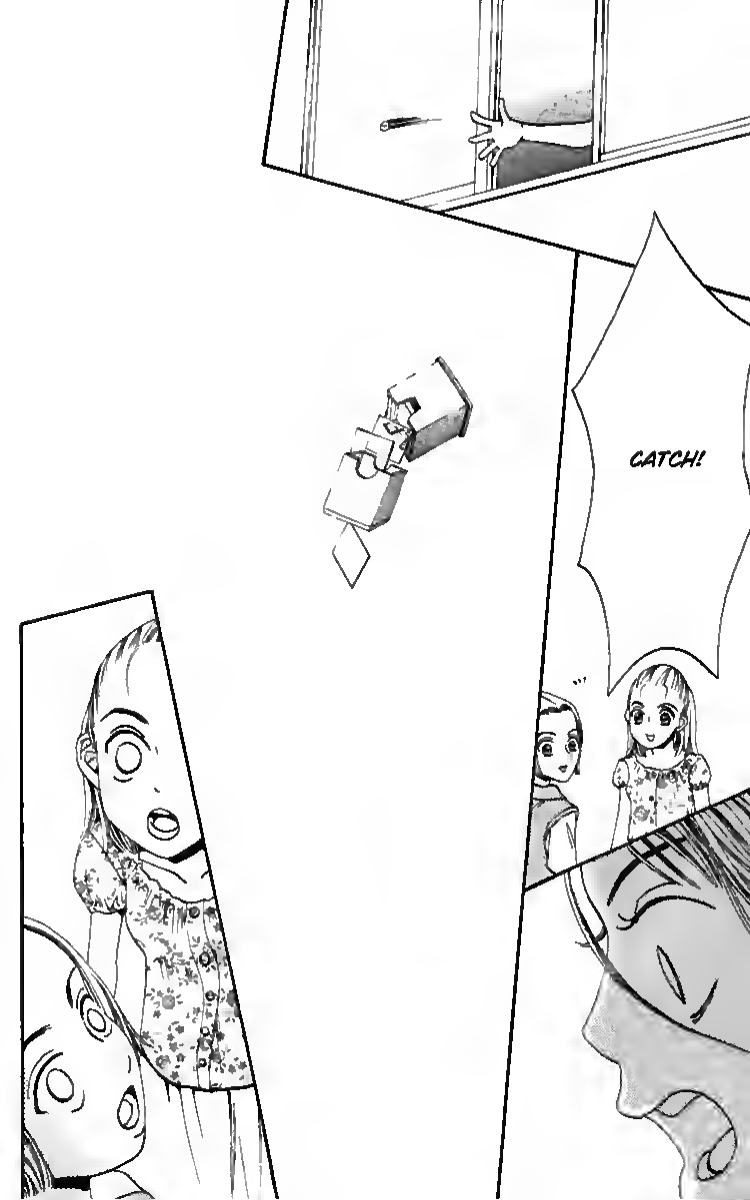
The Second Wound

Pit
er
Patter
Huya
Huya
Pitter
Patter
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE UP TO THAT AGAIN!
HEY!!
It's so pretty!
Ah it broke
It's
Run!
Ah it's the teacher
ON A SUNNY DAY IF THEY DROP THE THIN GLASS FROM THE TOP FLOOR TO THE GROUND,
APPARENTLY THE SHATTERED GLASS SPARKLES AND LOOKS BEAUTIFUL.
HUH
KIDS SURE DO THINK OF THE MOST INTERESTING THINGS.
YOU KIDS!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW DANGEROUS THAT IS?!
IT'S NO TIME TO BE ADMIRING THEM!
WHAT IF SOMEONE WALKS BY WHEN THEY DO IT?!
MY
YOU'RE RIGHT
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT WERE THEY UP TO?
IT'S THE COVER GLASS
WE USE FOR THE MICROSCOPES
MY GOD


IT'S BECOME A FAD IN CLASS...
AT FIRST, IT WAS ONLY A SMALL GROUP OF BOYS...
BUT NOW EVEN THE GIRLS'VE STARTED GETTING INVOLVED.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TELL THEM TO STOP, THEY WON'T LISTEN TO ME.
IT'S HOPELESS!
Friend ship
...WE USED UP ALL THE GLASS...
TATSUTA-SAN, YOU'LL GET US SOME MORE, WON'T YOU?

RIGHT NOW?
RIGHT NOW...
BUT THE SCIENCE ROOM IS LOCKED ALREA-
IT WAS OPEN.
SO GO IN THERE AND STEAL 'EM!
IF YOU DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT WE SAY, WE WON'T LET YOU PLAY WITH US.
YEAH, WE'LL KICK YOU OUT OF OUR GROUP.
DO YOU WANT TO BE ALONE AGAIN?
OH, BY THE WAY,
SO DO THEY STEAL THE GLASS DURING CLASS WHEN THEY'RE USING THE MICROSCOPES?
IT SEEMS LIKE IT.
I JUST HOPE THIS "FAD" DOESN'T SPREAD TO THE OTHER CLASSES.
We can't have them watching school movies like this.
Click
Science Room
BUT YOU KEEP A SHARP EYE ON THEM DURING CLASS RIGHT?
IF THAT HASN'T KEPT THIS KIND OF PLAY DOWN, THEN THAT MEANS...

"WE'LL BE WAITING OUTSIDE SO GRAB 'EM AND BRING THEM OUT HERE OKAY?"
THE KEY TO THE SCIENCE ROOM...!
I WONDER IF IT WAS HANGING ON THE BOARD?
Now that you mention it
...AH!
While no one's looking
THEY'RE STEALING GLASS OUTSIDE OF CLASS TOO DON'T YOU THINK?
blinks
CLICK CLACK CLICK
CLICK CLACK CLICK
OH, HEY!
THE DOOR'S OPEN!
I WONDER IF SOMEONE'S IN THERE?!
CLICK CLACK
Sem ousy?
ha, ha, ha, ha
CLICK CLACK
CLICK CLACK
SWISH
ra


CATCH!

Ishouo
Scans
...!
...GYA AAA!
THE GLASS GOT IN MY EYES!
HYAA-!
OWWW!
No-!
I'm bleeding-!
shatter
shatter
sparkle
sparkle
sparkle
sparkle

Whose fault is it that things ended up like this?

Who is the one most at fault?

Tatsuta-san was always stealing them from the science room, and we just got her to share some of it with us~
We don't know anything~
Tatsuta-san was the one that did every-thing~

Those girls from class? Or me?

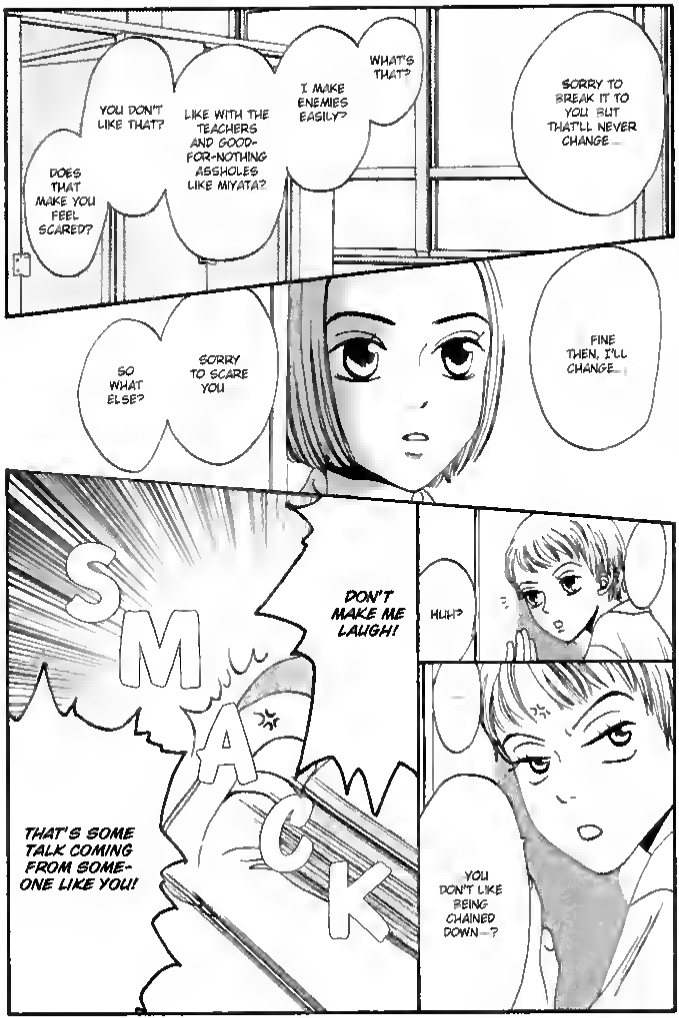
...being the person of few words like I was, all the blame turned to me.

...THAT FUCKIN' BITCH!
PUNCH
SHE RATTED US OUT TO THE TEACH!
THAT KOSAI'S
WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE IS?!
GONNA FRIGGIN' GET IT!
KOSAI-SAN, I WARNED YOU ABOUT THIS JUST THE OTHER DAY, DIDN'T I?
Where'd she go?
Find her!

The Third Wound

WHY DO YOU USE THE BATHROOM CLEANING SUPPLIES CLOSET FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL USE?
...BUT, TEACH,
IT'S NOT JUST ME.
IT'S CONVENIENT FOR EVERYONE
IF YOU SUDDENLY GOT YOUR PERIOD ON A DAY THAT YOU WEREN'T PREPARED YOU'D BE PANICKED TOO. WOULDN'T YOU?
IF THAT HAPPENED...
YOU CAN GET WHAT YOU NEED IF YOU GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE!
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO SET ASIDE ANYTHING IN THE BATHROOM!
AT ANY RATE, AT SCHOOL, STUDENTS SHOULD BRING NAPKINS AS NEEDED ON THEIR OWN!
MAKE SURE TO TAKE THIS HOME, ALL RIGHT?
...THAT ANNOYING OLD HAG
SHE'S SO HARDHEADED
DON'T YA THINK?
SMACK
YO, HARUMI
YOU SHOULD COME OUT ALREADY
THE TEACH'S GONE

I WON'T DO ANYTHING EITHER SO...
LIAR!
SLAM
click
shucks tongue
click
KYA!
click
click
OPEN UP ALREADY!
click
click
grabs
!!
THUD
click
COME OUT!
click
NO!
...WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME
THAT YOU DISLIKE SO MUCH ANYWAY?
sigh
+thump
IS IT MY FACE?
OR MY PERSONALITY?
IS IT BECAUSE I SNAP EASILY?
OR IS IT BECAUSE OF MY VIOLENT SIDE?

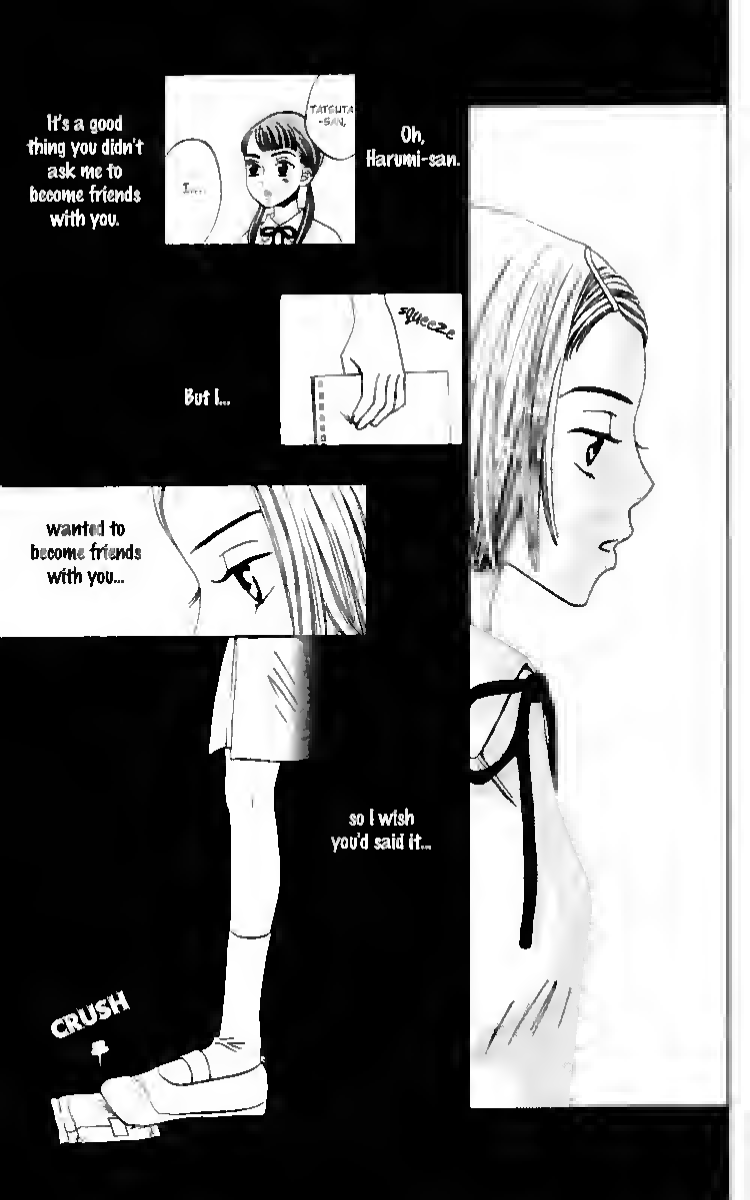

SORRY TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT THAT'LL NEVER CHANGE...
WHAT'S THAT?
I MAKE ENEMIES EASILY?
LIKE WITH THE TEACHERS AND GOOD-FOR-NOTHING ASSHOLES LIKE MIYATA?
YOU DON'T LIKE THAT?
DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL SCARED?
FINE THEN, I'LL CHANGE...
SORRY TO SCARE YOU
SO WHAT ELSE?
HUH?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
SMACK
YOU DON'T LIKE BEING CHAINED DOWN—?
THAT'S SOME TALK COMING FROM SOME-ONE LIKE YOU!

SMACK
...
YESTERDAY!
THUD
YOU DON'T LIKE BEING CHAINED DOWN, DO YOU?!
THUD
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING?!
YOU WERE TAKING NOTES FOR THE GIRL WHO WASN'T AT SCHOOL YESTERDAY, WEREN'T YOU?
JUST SO YOU KNOW. YOU'VE BEEN MINE
EVER SINCE I SAVED YOU WHEN YOU WERE BEING BULLIED BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
YOU HEAR THAT?!
THUD
THAT FRIGGIN' PISSES ME OFF!
WHAT? THE TEACHER ASKED YOU TO?
THEN YOU SHOULD'VE JUST MADE A COPY OF YOUR OWN NOTES
IT'S SO FREAKIN' OBVIOUS!
EVEN IF YOU TRY TO CREATE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND ME
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
YOU'RE THINKING OF TRYING TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME!

Ack
si...lence...
!
Pitter patter
...YOU HEARD US JUST NOW?
TATSUTA, SAN...
UM...
I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR TAKING NOTES FOR ME WHILE I WAS ABSENT...
SO...
nod
I'M JUST GLAD IT WAS YOU...
Sigh
HUH?
YOU'RE NOT ONE FOR WORDS, AND YOU LOOK LIKE YOU CAN KEEP A SECRET...

IN THE PAST I MENTIONED HOW I HATED BEING TEASED BY THE GUYS EVERY TIME I WOULD BRING A VIDEO GAME FROM MY BAG OR MY LOCKER INTO THE BATHROOM...
THIS
Whisper
SHE SET UP A STORAGE SPACE IN THE BATHROOM...
AND SHE TOOK WHAT I SAID AT FACE VALUE...
blushes
SHE FORGOT SOME-THING...
OH...
I'M SICK AND TIRED OF HER!
SHE'S SHORT-TEMPERED AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD...
THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING NOT RIGHT ABOUT HER!
BUT THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
HEY...
WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM JUST NOW...?
...WAS THAT KOSAI-SAN?
TATSUTA-SAN...
IT'S TRUE...
...
I...
THAT I WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS BESIDES KOSAI...

BA-DUMP
...
...BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME...
BA-DUMP
...AH,
BA-DUMP
WHAT...?
BA-DUUM!
MIYATA-KUN AND THE OTHERS WERE LOOKING FOR HER JUST NOW, SO...
Or so she said, but Harumi-san was restless,
and she talked about stuff that made no sense.
The Lawson's commercial's cute, don't you think?
In the end, she grabbed a mop from inside the cleaning storage room.
CLICK
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!!
...
He's mishima-
Or so she said, but she didn't end up coming back after that.


It's a good thing you didn't ask me to become friends with you.
TATSUTA -SAN,
I....
Oh, Harumi-san.
squeeze
But I...
wanted to become friends with you...
so I wish you'd said it...
CRUSH

noise
noise
SAO, YOU KNOW,
SINCE BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, YOU HAD THIS AURA THAT MADE ME THINK YOU WERE SOMEONE REALLY HARD TO GET TO KNOW
YEAH, I HEAR YOU SAME FOR JUNIOR HIGH TOO
AND IT WAS HARD TO GET CLOSE TO YOU...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT NOW THOUGH
YOU HARDLY SAID ANYTHING-
WHO'S THE ONE NOT HOLDING ANYTHING BACK?
YOU DON'T HOLD ANYTHING BACK
ha ha ha
YEAH, NOW YOU'RE JUST A LOUD MOUTH
NOW RUDE-
I'VE MESSED UP AND BEEN HURT SO MANY TIMES THAT I'VE LEARNED FROM ALL THAT, YOU KNOW?
IT MEANS THAT IN THESE SEVENTEEN YEARS,
WELL IT'S LIKE THIS.

The Fourth Wound

ding—
dong—
HA HA...
WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY?
A HA HA.
WHAT THE HELL?
I WAS ABLE TO POLISH MY CHARACTER AND LEARN HOW TO GET ON IN THE WORLD...
THAT'S HOW
FREE BLOCK
NOISE
NOISE
HEY, YUKKE.
WHAT ARE YOU ALWAYS WRITING DOWN IN THAT NOTEBOOK
NOISE
NOISE
WANNA TRY AND GUESS?

...
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS SOME KIND OF HOMEWORK FOR ENGLISH BUT...
Since your answers in English are good
...YOU'RE WRITING IN ENGLISH, RIGHT?
FROM JUST GLANCING AT IT, IT'S HARD TO GUESS THE CONTENTS
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE WRITING IN ENGLISH?
IS IT SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT OTHERS TO FIND OUT ABOUT?
...SO WHAT IS IT?
...BUT THAT'S NOT IT, IS IT?
HEY...?
Maybe put it in his locker
...THAT'S WEIRD...
YEAH, KINDA.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING YUKKE?
YEP SEE YA~
HEY, SAD, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?

Thursday April 2,
Dear Yukihiro,
Never misun
This is first of a
study English hard
your weak subject. A
Dear Yukihiro,
Don't misunderstand, okay? For starters, let me just make it clear that this is for you to study English harder, since it's your weak subject.
If you write to me about stuff that is really boring, or if I see that your English hasn't improved at all, I'll stop this letter exchange right away
Otherwise, there's no point in us doing something like this since we live in the same house, right?
Towako
—?
Friday April 3
Dear Towako,
Thank
Dear Towako-san,
of it.

Ishouyo

Scans

...A DIARY EXCHANGE!

My high school entrance ceremony is coming up soon too.

I'm thinking of going to a foreign language school like you in the future.

I'm really happy that you've agreed to take

I'll do my best not to disappoint you.

on another note, today was the day of your entrance ceremony for university right?

how was university?

so I'll try my hardest in my studies.
Yukihiro

HUH?

DOES YUKKE HAVE AN OLDER SISTER?

THAT SOUNDS SUSPICIOUS

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT BUT THAT'S TOO— THEIR BUSINESS, YOU KNOW?

Don't saw to conclusions

HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN SHE LOOKED LIKE HIM?

THEY'RE NOT RELATED BY BLOOD ARE THEY?

—THEY'RE NOT BUT THEY LOOKED ALIKE—

HIS LAST NAME CHANGED IN JUNIOR HIGH AFTER ALL

SHE'S HIS STEP-SISTER FROM

SHE'S HIS STEP-SISTER FROM THEIR PARENT'S REMARRIAGE

YEAH HE DOES

I'VE SEEN HER ONCE BEFORE, BUT SHE WAS PRETTY GOOD LOOKING

YEAH, SHE KINDA LOOKED LIKE YUKKE

HUH, HIS SIS?

Thursday August 7th:
Dear Tomoko-san,

Towako-san, inside of me lives a monster

This September, my school is having a school festival, so it's going to get busy for me too what with the preparations and all.

It's been really hot lately. It's summer break, but you seem to be as busy as ever with your part-time job.

Please stay at home sometimes, won't you?

I feel the strong glare of the summer sun, and the dark shadows of the courtyard.

When I'm preparing for the school festival in the quietness of the afternoon,

this sudden feeling of excruciating pain seizes me.

I have a feeling that one of these days, this feeling will probably become one that I can no longer control.

Wednesday October 14th
Dear Yukihiro,

You still haven't been able to find whatever you lost?

How was the goukon* yesterday? Was it fun? Did you meet any nice girls?

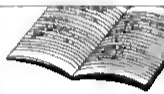
I'm busy because my report is due tomorrow.

*T/Note: A type of drinking party but more like a group blind date

Friday, October 16th
Dear Towako-san

...it seems that Mother's found out about this notebook. Last night, I saw her flipping through it while holding a dictionary in one hand.

I explained to Mom about this notebook, and how I didn't want her snooping in on us anymore.



...it's not as if there's anything earth-shattering in here even if she did manage to fully translate it.

I wonder if Mom's caught on to something?

THE GUYS ARE PLAYING SOCCER. HEY,

THAT LOOKS FUN.

...it may just be that I wanted to share a secret with you.

She asked me something with a suspicious look on her face.

BUT HE'S LAUGHING—

THAT LOOKS LIKE IT HURT!

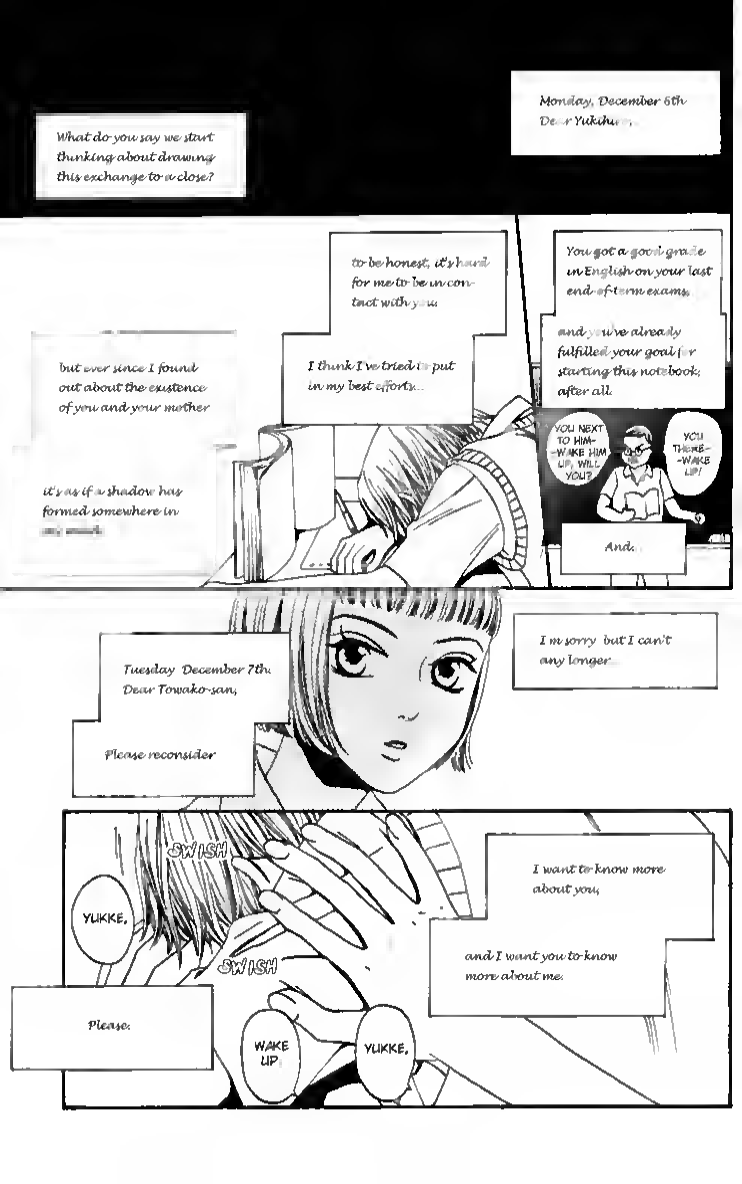
HEY, YUKKE FELL.

She's always been a sharp person.

YUKKE LOOKS LIKE HE DOESN'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD.

What is "a monster"?

HE'S SO CARING.


What do you say we start thinking about drawing this exchange to a close?
Monday, December 6th
Dear Yukihara,
to be honest, it's hard for me to be in contact with you.
I think I've tried to put in my best efforts...
but ever since I found out about the existence of you and your mother
it's as if a shadow has formed somewhere in my mind.
You got a good grade in English on your last end-of-term exams,
and you've already fulfilled your goal for starting this notebook, after all.
YOU NEXT TO HIM--WAKE HIM UP, WILL YOU?
YOU THERE--WAKE UP!
And.
I'm sorry but I can't any longer...
Tuesday December 7th
Dear Towako-san,
Please reconsider
SWISH
YUKKE,
SWISH
I want to know more about you,
and I want you to know more about me.
Please.
WAKE UP!
YUKKE,

I admit it's unpleasant
I admit it's unpleasant, and that you might feel creeped out seeing as we're blood-related, but
I like you, Towako-san —
and it's not as an older sister
I —
thump!
clatter
I SHOULDN'T READ ANY FURTHER.

SHE PUT SOMETHING IN YUKKE'S DESK DIDN'T SHE?
WHAT WAS THAT?
THAT WAS TATSUTA JUST NOW, WASN'T IT?
Maybe it's a love letter?
Pitter Patter
JUST A REGULAR NOTE-BOOK?
WHAT'S THIS?
HMM?
FLAP
FLAP
DASHES
WAIT,
NO IT'S
YO,
WHAT IS THIS...
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
MOR NIN'!
MOR NIN'!
NO WAY-
WHAT'S THAT?
Hey- Mommy!

SUMMARY
This is the diary exchange between Yukke and his step-sister from their parents' remarriage.
Yukke & His Sister's Love Diary
What is a monster?
NO WAY—
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
HEY, ARE THEY ALLOWED TO DO THAT...
NOISE
NOISE
NOISE
WH...
...
...WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, TATSUTA?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
WHO DID THIS ..?!
WHAT IS THIS...?!
GRABS

YOU SAW IT TOO WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION DIDN'T YOU?
YEAH, YOU STOLE IT FROM HIS DESK,
SO DO YOU REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I
Hehe
A HA HA HA
!!
YUKKE
YUKKE

TATSUTA AAAAAA! —
AH,
IT'S JUST A LITTLE JOKE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
YOU HEARD JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU?
TATSUTA WAS THE ONE THAT TOOK THE NOTEBOOK OUT OF YOUR DESK FIRST
SHE STOLE IT
-WHAT ARE YOU ALWAYS WRITING \nWN IN THAT NOTEBOOK OF YOURS?-
AND THAT'S HOW-
TA

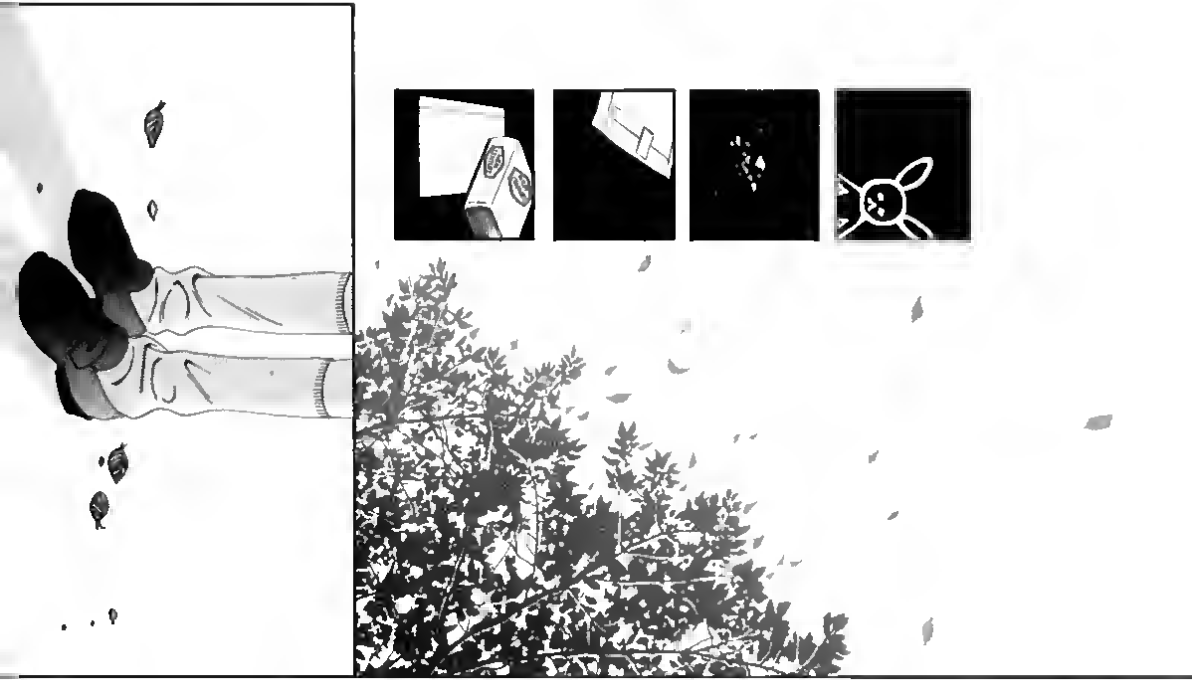
GRABS
YUKKE!
STOP IT, YUKKE!
KYA—
SAO!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
HACK
COUGH
HACK
LET SAO GO!
TATSUTA!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!!
TRY SAYING SOMETHING FOR YOURSELF, HUH?!

HOW COULD YOU, YUKKE?
WHEEZE
AH
WHEEZE
YUKKE!
AND BESIDES, YUKKE'S THE ONE THAT JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS.
TATSUTA SHOULD'VE STOOD UP FOR HERSELF!
WHEEZE
CALM DOWN!
SAO ONLY-
Grabs
BUT REALLY, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM THE TRUTH?
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO JUSTIFY THE MEANS?!
CUT IT OUT!
YEAH
WHEEZE
YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO HIM
YEAH
YOU'RE SUCH A LOSER!
WHAT! WELL, IT'S HER FAULT FOR NOT SAYING ANYTHING!
YOU SHOVED ALL THE BLAME ONTO SAO!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GUYS!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
ARE YOU OKAY, SAO?

Tshoujo
SUMMARY
YUKKE
A FORBIDDEN LOVE~
AFTERWARDS, VARIOUS STUFF HAPPENS, AND IT SEEMS LIKE HIS SIS'S BEEN PROMPTED BY HIS FEELINGS. YUKKE'S FUTURE SEEMS BRIGHT!
HIS SIS COMES TO RUNAWAY FROM HOME, BUT HE BRINGS HER BACK AGAINST HER WILL.
THIS IS SO UNLIKE THE YUKKE THAT WE KNOW! HE'S LAUNCHING AN ATTACK!
HIS SIS IS CREEPED OUT (LAUGHS)
WE GUESS THAT THEY'RE HALF-SIBLINGS.
THIS IS THE DIARY EXCHANGE BETWEEN YUKKE AND HIS STEP-SISTER FROM THEIR PARENTS' REMARRIAGE.
...SIGH,
DON'T TELL ME...
...
THAT YOU LIKE YUKKE...?
YOU'RE SO STUPID~
THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON TO TELL HIM...
...
YOU CAN'T STAY QUIET AT A TIME LIKE THAT~
...UU...

...I'll probably lead a life in which there are no short supply of fresh wounds.

...While thinking of out of place stuff like that, I couldn't stop my tears from falling.

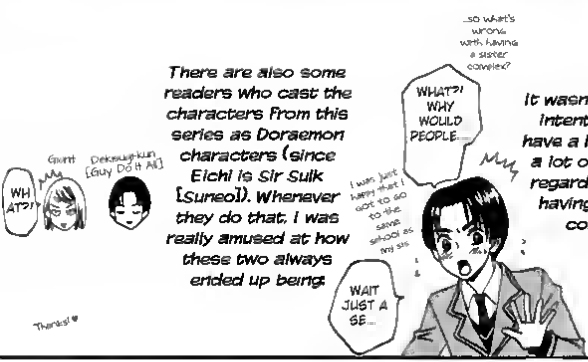


But I'll be capable of loving those scars
But I'll be capable of loving those scars

Would you like a cough drop?

Behind the Scenes —Extra—

(1) On the topic of the Katsuragawa siblings


WH AT?!
Grunt
Dekosuke-kun (Guy Do It All)
There!
There are also some readers who cast the characters from this series as Doraemon characters (since Eichi is Sir Suik [Suneo]). Whenever they do that, I was really amused at how these two always ended up being.
I was just happy that I got to go to the same school as my sis
WAIT JUST A SE...
WHAT?! WHY WOULD PEOPLE...
...so what's wrong with having a sister complex?
It wasn't really my intention, but I have a feeling that a lot of readers, regard Eichi as having a sister complex.

(2) Eiji's School Club

But since two readers, wrote me letters saying he "seems like the type to be on the baseball team," now as far as I'm concerned, I've started to think of him as being a part of the baseball club.

What a lazy manuka I am.

I did set it so that Eiji's supposedly a member of a sports club. But I was too lazy to draw any scenes with him actually doing anything in that club, so up to this point I kind of avoided to decide for sure what kind of club he's in.

While Reiko was wrapped up in love and exam troubles, many strange things were happening to Eiji

Before the test...
....
On Valentine's Day...
WHAT ...
THIS WAS IN THE MAIL BOX...
Who's it from?
A mysterious gift...
After he finished with his class
Hmm?
Why, of course.
The sports shoes that were all dirty's come back sparkling clean.
And there's never any name written as to who it's from...
The English textbook that I apperently forgot...

...Ever since realizing that she liked him she went through a time period when she wanted to do as much as she could to help him.

Thank you all for your letters.
I'm very happy. It gives me energy when I draw manga. Every time I finish a title I always have a solo "regrets meeting" and the flaws of my manga are always the first thing that comes to mind and I get quite depressed. But when I read the letters that all you readers write to me I feel as if I've been saved somehow and I feel like I'm floating...

Yeah. I'm truly greatful.

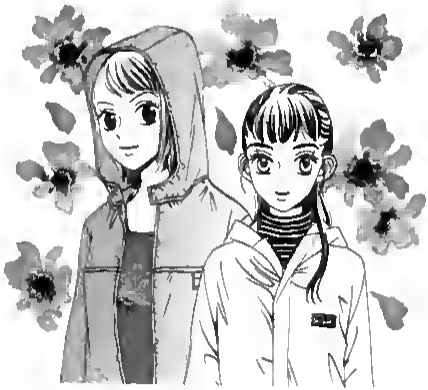
I remember being told this...
It's always 'float this' 'float that' with you
WHAT ARE YOU A FLOTATION RING?
Regrets
On a side note, a long time ago, whenever I would use the word "Float" (Fuyou)

I do try to do my best to reply to all the letters I receive, but if you don't receive a reply I'm really sorry. Where my feelings are concerned though I always want to say "thank you" to the person who wrote the letter whenever I read it.

I truly believe that it's because of you readers that there's meaning in my drawing manga— I honestly believe that from the bottom of my heart.

If you get the chance, please check it out.
It's finally reaching the finish line.
In the Fourth volume (if it's released, that is) it will go back to Kanako and Eiji's story for the final volume.
Machizuki Karin
July 7th, 1999

Would You Like a Cough Drop? / End



花とゆめCOMICS
笑えない理由③

1999年8月25日　第1刷発行
2000年2月15日　第3刷発行

著者　望月花梨
©Karin Mochizuki 1999
発行人　甘利博正
発行所　株式会社　白泉社
〒101-0063
東京都千代田区神田淡路町2－2－2
電話・編集 03(3526)8025
販売 03(3526)8010
業務 03(3526)8020
印刷所　株式会社　廣済堂

ISBN4-592-17233-7
Printed in Japan HAKUSENSHA
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